

MILITARY AND NAVAL MAGAZINE

OF THE

UNITED STATES.

VOL. II.---NO. 2.---OCTOBER, 1833.

FOR THE MILITARY AND NAVAL MAGAZINE.

NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS OF THE ARMY.

In one of your late numbers of the Military and Naval Magazine is a copy of the General Regulation relative to the term of service and pay of enlisted men, predicated on the Act of Congress of March last, entitled—"An Act to improve the condition of the non-commissioned officers and privates of the Army and Marine Corps, and to prevent desertion."

This is a subject fraught with peculiar interest to all concerned in the welfare of the service, and one that has long engaged the attention of the War Department, to whose exertions we are indebted for this first step towards a reformation of the serious and growing evils with which it has had to contend. It is our wish to make a few remarks upon the operation of this law, not so much from any expectation that our opinions, for which we do not claim originality, will be received, as from a desire of inviting the attention of others to some acceptable scheme for the amelioration of the condition of the army, in other more reasonable respects than the mere increase of pay. The evils to which we have alluded, are principally desertion, intemperance, and their concomitant vices, which prevail to a great extent among that worthless and dissolute class which has so long infested the ranks. All the attempts that have been hitherto made to eradicate these evils, have proved ineffectual, or at best attended with but partial success; and the conclusions of those, who have investigated their probable origin, have

been, that the scanty pay and bounties offered to enlisted men were not sufficient inducements to tempt the industrious yeoman or artizan from his profitable pursuits in civil life. But were we to look for more probable causes, we might find them perhaps in that mistaken philanthropy which has abrogated certain punishments; but as it is our purpose only to discuss the remedies proposed by an increase of pay, we would confine ourselves to the consideration of the means of bestowing that pay to the best advantage.

The act before us has placed it in our power to accomplish a great deal; but the mere circumstance of improving pay does not imply immediate benefits, but is rather to be considered an instrument, by the good or bad use of which, corresponding results will be obtained. If we expect every thing to be effected without exertion on our own part, and calmly and complacently wait for the tardy operation of the law, we will be led into great error; and if we say, that a reformation must be the natural consequence of increased pay, we mistake the effect for the cause. If such be the case, we will have to wait long before any change will take place; and, owing to the difficulty of discriminating in the recruiting department, the same description of men will continue to offer themselves, with perhaps a few exceptions, and vice will still continue to creep into the ranks. Some system must, therefore, be devised, which will counteract this tendency and take the evil at its fountain-head; for, as diseases that become deep-rooted in the human system require active remedies to dislodge them, so will it require an energetic course of practice in this case. The co-operation of all the members of the army is desirable, but more particularly of those to whom its interests are specially and officially confided. It remains with them to prescribe, and for us to administer, the remedy; and we would be happy if any suggestions of ours would direct their attention to an object, involving as it does, the general welfare.

Few military questions come under the cognizance of the Military Board at Washington, of such import as the disbursement of 25 or 30,000 dollars per annum for the improvement of the army. This is the fact—the sum above mentioned is over and above the sum which has maintained the military establishment since 1821. Does it not behoove us, then, to enquire, whether this large amount of increase may not, by proper application, be made to produce results more effectually, in a short time, than it would otherwise for years.

We intend to offer, in our subsequent remarks, some data which, we believe, will go far to demonstrate the practicability of making the much wished for amelioration through the medium of the non-commissioned officers; for any improvement among them implies a simultaneous benefit to the common soldier.

This class of men are always the élite of the ranks, and, standing as they do intermediately between the officers and men, have relations with both of a nature, such as to constitute them, next to having good officers, the very soul of military discipline. With regard to our officers no steps, in the way of legislation, are deemed necessary for their further improvement; their talents and qualifications are good, and it only remains for them to impart *their* knowledge to the non-commissioned officers in a proper manner, and *they*, in their turn, cannot fail to make good soldiers. All officers in command must concede that good discipline is dependent upon this grade, and that they rely upon it as the main spring of interior police of garrisons, and the domestic economy of their companies; and will perhaps acknowledge, what their experience has proved, that companies are good or bad in proportion to the abilities of their non-commissioned officers. By taking any measures, consequently, towards their improvement, they will not only acquit themselves of a duty which they owe to the public, but will, at the same time, confer a lasting benefit upon themselves and their successors.

We will now take a view of the present, compared with the past, condition of this grade, and also comparing that with warrant officers, deduce from thence some conclusions as to what further changes may be made in their favor. The compensation they now receive is liberal, and amounts to a sum between 25 and 30,000 dollars more per annum, among those above the rank of corporal, than it did previously to the 2d of March last. Out of this sum, 192 of the non-commissioned staff receive 18,600 dollars more than formerly.

The average pay, including clothing, commuted at 30 dollars per annum, for 11 sergeant majors, 11 quarter master sergeants, 44 ordnance sergeants, 112 orderly sergeants, besides 14 principal musicians, is 217, 80-100 dollars each per annum, independently of their subsistence. What is the average pay of a cadet? He receives in *available* pay but 192 dollars per annum, independently of his subsistence. Here the non-commissioned staff, amounting to 192 in number, are in receipt of about 192 dollars each in available pay, to which is *added* 30 dollars for clothing, while the cadet on the other hand receives about the same sum, from which is *deducted* his clothing, which must necessarily be of a much more expensive description than that issued to the enlisted man. The cadet, moreover, has many contingent expenses which are wholly unknown to the soldier, and uncalled for by his limited wants, such as books, instruments, furniture, &c.; so that it may be said with propriety, that the non-commissioned officer in reality receives more than the cadet. The one from his circumstances and the fewness of his necessary wants is almost obliged to save his

pay, while the other, as we know from personal experience, is literally obliged to expend the whole of his.

To make the contrast more evident, let us suppose that all those benefitted by this act in the army and marine corps, by receiving the average pay of 217 80-100 per annum, amount to 200; we will then calculate what would be the cost of their pay and clothing for four years, and compare this sum with the cost of pay and clothing of the same number of cadets for the same period.

In the first case we shall have pay and clothing,	\$ 174,240
And in the second case,	153,600
Making a difference in four years of	\$ 20,640

By adding bounties for enlistment, which are not received by cadets, we find that this non-commissioned staff has an actual gain of between 5 and 6,000 dollars per annum over the cadet. The conclusion which we would wish to draw from the above statement is simply this, that if the government pays, as it certainly does, so much more in proportion for the formation of good non-commissioned officers, than for the formation of good officers, let us by all means have men instructed in *this*, as well as in the official grades; until that is done, we never can expect to have a change complete and satisfactory. We would not be understood to say, in proposing a course of instruction for these men, suited to their capacities and the wants of service, that any particular school should be instituted, or any additional expense should be incurred; so far from this, we would insist that the ways and means are already at our disposal by the act of the 2d of March, and that they are more than adequate to that kind of instruction which is required; and that, in fact, it could be commenced under auspices, perhaps better than those of the Military Academy in 1802. That institution, in its infancy, had no accommodations like those of our military posts of the present day, and but few instructors.

We may fix upon almost any of our posts to locate a school of instruction, without any extra expense, and denominate it, if we choose, a primary Recruiting Depot, and its garrison of young cadet soldiers, may perform all the duties incident to it as a post.

We will assume an hypothesis every way feasible in practice. Let us select a post, in a healthy situation, where living is not expensive, requiring a garrison of four companies.—We will suppose that these four companies are already stationed there; the next step will be to make a distribution of their men among all the other companies in service, according to their respective wants, in the same manner as re-

cruits from the general depot. The skeleton of these companies will remain suitably officered to be filled up by young men about 18 or 19 years of age, who may offer themselves well recommended, with the understanding that they are to receive a certain course of instruction, and be eligible, according to their conduct and qualifications, to the first vacancies among the non-commissioned officers, and afterwards to be assigned to different departments, according to the capacities they may respectively evince for different kinds of duty.

In order to induce young men of a proper character to apply, pains should be taken to inform the public that a new system, having for its object the amelioration of the service, is about to be commenced. All the advantages of the new law should be fully set forth and explained in such a manner as to meet the comprehension of the parents and guardians of a certain class of young men, and of that respectable portion who alone ought to enjoy the benefits of respectable pay. The term of instruction might be limited to two years, or even less, according to the degree of proficiency manifested, so that those who enter at 18 will have attained, in that period, the graduating age of cadets. The minimum age of enlisted men allowed by law is eighteen, but, as no restriction is made with regard to musicians, younger men might be selected for that purpose, who, on completing their course of instruction, will have attained the proper age.

The common schools of New England, for the education of the poorer classes of society, abound with intelligent though poor individuals, who would gladly embrace such advantages, and become ornaments to the line of the army. The annual disbursement of 40 or 50,000 dollars among such young men, would be an act of charitable beneficence to them—afford them an ample support, and repay the government richly for its liberality in the end. The same might be made to apply to the promising sons of soldiers. It is true that men, perhaps of some education, but of broken fortunes and constitutions, finding they cannot do so well elsewhere, will continue to offer their services; but are these the men we want for the *improvement* of the condition of the army?

Still this is the kind of men we shall have to receive, even under all the provisions of the act, so long as the present system is allowed to exist; in the mean time we shall have to lavish much excellent pay upon worthless materials and many indifferent non-commissioned officers will have to be promoted before the desideratum will have been accomplished; but if a new system be adopted, and such materials as above alluded to, be selected, we shall ere long have a corps of non-commissioned officers of a superior order, perhaps excelling the "*sous-officiers*" of the French, or the splendid drill sergeants of the English services.

It is doubtful whether the pupils of the departmental military schools of France have better pecuniary resources than our sergeants now have, or whether our own military academy, now the pride of the Republic and the close rival of foreign military schools, was commenced under better auspices than an establishment could be, projected in the manner we have suggested. In 1802, West Point bore no comparison to the present excellent condition of our numerous fortresses, and in point of accommodations, both for professors and students, it was very indifferent. A few scattered cottages, and an old wooden barrack, being all that were occupied by them for several years, were far from being as commodious as those buildings now occupied by common soldiers at the majority of our military posts; and at that time, when talents for instruction were rare, and confined exclusively to the corps of engineers, or a few citizens, the pay of a captain commanded instructors in the highest branches taught at the institution.

How widely different is the case at present. There is, perhaps, not a corps or a company in service, that has not had at times, graduates who have acted as assistant instructors at the military institution. How much more easily then could we not procure the requisites for teachers of non-commissioned cadets, more especially since the pay of officers has been considerably increased.

Instructors, therefore, may be said to abound in every military department, and will not be found wanting, if any voluntary proffer of their talents is to be made. Many, we doubt not, would prefer the command of intelligent young men, to that of the illiterate and vicious. Some are ambitious of any useful enterprise, which would rescue their acquirements from oblivion; and others, from a laudable *esprit du corps* or patriotism, would cheerfully lend their aid to the promotion of any plan, tending to remove those evils, with which they have so long and so vainly contended, and with which they will still have to contend, if no change be made. It is then incumbent upon every officer, but more especially upon the executives of each of the military departments, to meet the liberality of Congress with a correspondent spirit, and instead of suffering extra emolument to be wasted on the same class of men as formerly, it ought to be the study of all concerned, to devise the best method of meeting fully the intentions of the act. Instead of indulging the fallacious expectation that time will produce the desired effect, let us take preparatory measures to accelerate it. We know not how soon we may be debarred even the opportunities we now have. War is generally an unlooked-for event, and allows but short notice to make levies and place our garrisons in a state of defence, and much less time for calm reflection upon any systematic plans; by what magic,

we would ask, are we then to make any reformation? Prudence, if no other motive, should dictate to us the maxim, that it is only in peace that we can properly prepare for war. If we are well prepared, we can increase our army rapidly and effectively at a moment's warning, to four or five times its present number, ready to take the field immediately after having passed through the hands of experienced drill masters.

On a sudden increase of military force, the most essential thing, next to having scientific regular officers, is to have an *élite* band of good drill sergeants, and of thorough-bred soldiers to set up new recruits, and take charge of companies as fast as they are organized. Without some precaution of this kind, the discipline of raw troops must be slow, or if hastily and carelessly attended to, their chances of *defeat* will be almost certain. The warning contained in this word alone, conveys enough to the mind of a military man, to satisfy him of the necessity of vigilance, and every one of any foresight and calculation must be aware that the expenses incurred by well directed and judicious management in a state of profound peace, are nothing when weighed with the disastrous losses occasioned by a single defeat, of which, loss of confidence and military reputation, in a moral point of view, are not to be reckoned among the least. Let us, therefore, while we can, anticipate all the horrors of defeat, and the contingent calamities of war.

The organization of the military establishment in 1821, was projected with the view to its being a nucleus, around which to collect the elements of a large force, whenever the state of the country might require it; and for this reason, it was deemed expedient to make it rather an army of officers than of men, concentrating in this nucleus as much talent as possible, and rendering it thereby a treasury, in which those sciences taught at the military academy might be garnered up for future occasions. For this end it was politic to enhance the intellectual standard of military attainment to its maximum, by the West Point ordeal, diminishing, at the same time, the physical force to that minimum number which would be indispensable to preserve our fortresses from dilapidation, and our munitions of war from decay. How far this project has succeeded, we leave those to judge who have witnessed the tone of moral and intellectual character which the army, within a few years, has assumed; and the progress which the military academy has made in the dissemination of useful knowledge, not only in our military, but even in our civil, departments. Like a wholesome tide, it has been seen swelling every channel, and fertilizing, like the Nile, every thing that has come under its influence. While we speak of this institution in terms of commendation, let us be allowed to aberrate a moment from our subject, and say a word to those who, from motives which we will

forbear to scan, may not be disposed to give the military academy the credit which we individually attach to it; we speak more in regret than from any other feeling, when we say, that there are many who are unable, or what is more objectionable, are unwilling to appreciate it. To those persons we would say no more than to refer them to the public works of the country, and to its public institutions, civil as well as military, and ask them how their engineers have been supplied, or their professorships have been filled; or if, in the utmost assuming of the graduates as a body, they have ever assumed one half of that which they were capable of performing, if their talents were properly directed by their superiors in rank.

We repeat this with regret, for we have seen much more to complain of in illiberality towards the pupils of this institution, than we wish to speak of at present; while, on the other hand, it is with deeply grateful feelings that we must acknowledge and appreciate the unprejudiced worth of those nobler minds, that are actuated by more elevated and more liberal sentiments.

To return to our subject and consider the state of our officers. We may safely aver, that there is no service which can claim, like ours, to have four fifths of its officers well educated, moral, and scientific men; and consequently the plan of the peace establishment in 1821, as above alluded to, may be said to have met with success, since scarcely room is left for the numerous candidates for lieutenancies that yearly present themselves; and who are from necessity attached to regiments for a considerable time before they receive promotion. The measure of success, in this respect, being full, our non-commissioned officers ought next to claim the fostering attention of the War Department, without which the original "*projet*" of 1821 may still be said to be incomplete. View the case as it is; the transition now from the highly cultivated mind of the officer, to the illiterate and ignoble state of the common soldier, is too great; and the inferiority of the latter is so apparent, as frequently to disgust the officer with his proper company duties. This disparity ought to be remedied, at least in some measure, and cannot better be done than by assimilating that intermediate class in question more towards the officer than the soldier, instead of being allied, as they long have been, to the latter, by kindred vices. They would then become powerful and efficient aids to their superiors; duty would be more cheerfully performed; resignations and desertions would be less frequent; the regulations, by being better understood, would be better enforced; and discipline, throughout the whole line of the army, would become much more rigid and perfect; and in this way alone can we expect to improve the condition of

THE SOLDIER.

It being evidently the true spirit and meaning of the above law, as well as the manifest intention of those who were instrumental in having it passed, to produce a great moral change in the personal character of individuals affected by it, instead of merely adding to their physical comfort, it is confidently hoped that that change may be commensurate with the liberal compensation they receive. If to this compensation we add suitable education, it will be a fair offset to that class for the want of promotion to a higher grade.

We might add a few words while on this subject, respecting the *rank* as well as the *file* of the army, which clearly comes under the provisions of the law, in order to show that this object might be attended to, collaterally with the rest; for instance, suppose that the four companies of young recruits in dépôt were to represent on a smaller scale, the four classes of cadets, with this exception, that instead of adhering to seniority, the best would be first selected for promotion to vacant sergeantcies, and be arranged accordingly. Those who do not evince sufficient tact for such promotion, could be formed into a separate company at the post of instruction as corporals and soldiers, assigning to it meritorious sergeants. When companies, so formed, became well disciplined, they could be made to supplant the old and broken down soldiers by entire companies, and by keeping these young men, who are supposed not to have contracted any vicious habits, wholly aloof from their bad example, each post, garrisoned by a single company, might be successively regenerated. To effect this with more certainty, the old soldiers should be distributed in such a manner, as not to interfere with the élite.

FOR THE MILITARY AND NAVAL MAGAZINE.

THE FIRST CAMPAIGN OF AN A.D.C.,

No. 4.

By the time the British had entirely abandoned the Lake shore, and retreated, as if intending to make a new stand in the village of Newark, or within the defences of Fort George, the officer, who had the chief direction of the landing, had joined with the second brigade, and assumed the direction of ulterior movements. It was evident that it was sheer loss of time to remain where we were, the advance and the scouts having ascertained that the enemy had withdrawn from the woods around us, and adjourned the contest to more favorable grounds. Some little time was permitted to elapse, while these matters were being ascertained; during which, the troops were able to catch a little breath, after their hard scramble up the bank, and the curious among them to take a summary view of the field of battle. The bushes presented only broken glimpses of the dead which were strewed among them; though one could hardly take a step without running the hazard of stumbling over the corpse of some soldier, who had thus been called upon, by the inexorable chances of his profession, to pay

the debt of nature; long, perhaps, before it had become due in the ordinary course of life. There was a moment also for the circulation of brief hints of who had fallen, and who had been wounded. The uncommon degree of exposure, to which the boats had been subjected in approaching the shore, had naturally led to an apprehension that the list of these would have been large in proportion; and the eyes of each officer were cast with anxious enquiry along the line on the bank, to ascertain who had passed through the initial ordeal unhurt, and stood ready for new trials. Many a glance met glance, flashing out the whole heart on the recognition of mutual safety. There was short pause however for these interchanges. The order soon passed for the troops to file off out of the woods to the left, to gain the plain which stretched between them and the Niagara river.

We soon fell into one of the roads, or bushy alleys, that ran along nearly parallel with the bank, and at the end of a few minutes, debouched on the open grounds, forming on them, with the Lake shore in our rear, the river Niagara at some distance on our left, and the village of Newark still further in our front. This plain may have been a mile and a half, or more, square; and was so level, that our movements upon it were fully open to view from every quarter, whether from the battery, which was on our left on the river bank, or from the village in front. The former was soon perceived to be the object of chief solicitude. It did not command the path by which we would naturally pursue the retreating enemy; and if it had, the guns of Fort Niagara, within whose reach it stood, could have engrossed its attention too much for leisure to annoy us. It might have been passed by at a safe distance, and with no other risk than that of violating an old rule of warfare, one which probably lost the battle of Germantown, namely, that no enemy's post should be left behind.

Though a small battery, it had been constructed with care. Being nearly opposite to Fort Niagara, it may have been deemed obnoxious to a coup de main, and therefore closed in the rear with some strength. Perhaps our chief was not fully aware of this fact, as previous reconnoissances could have given only a front view of it; else, having neither proper artillery nor scaling ladders on the ground, the present delay and parade would probably have been deemed inexpedient, as being worse than useless.

A fine regiment of the 2d brigade was detached to reduce this threatening fortress, and fulfil the old rule of warfare. There had not appeared the slightest demonstration of hostility from its parapets. A black gun or two peeped over them, shotted, for aught we knew, up to the muzzle, and ready to knock any column in the head, that ventured within point blank distance.

But not a glimpse of matross or match could be detected by the keenest observation. This, however, might all be ambuscade or ruse de guerre; and the assailing regiment approached with every precaution which book or usage could suggest.

While this episode was being developed on the left flank, the main body, now augmented by the arrival of all the troops, was spread out on the plain, in true militia-muster style, so as to show the enemy, provided he still lingered in the village of Newark, the utmost extent of our line, and give him the broadest target for such artillery as he might have there. It is not probable that he made calculations on this chance, as he could hardly suppose the whole army would be brought to a standstill, while this "chew house" of a battery could be carried, leaving him full leisure to arrange his defences in Fort George, or to evacuate it without molestation. But, seeing us all arranged, as it were, for the special accommodation of his guns, he could not resist the temptation of giving us a few shot, even if it were only to show us his skill in hitting so difficult a mark.

The *shrapnel* shell was a projectile somewhat new to us at that time. It is a hollow shot, filled with musket balls, and exploded by a fuse the same as a bomb. It is thrown mostly by howitzers, and has the advantage of producing something like the effect of musketry at a distance far beyond the musket range. While we were standing on the plain, patiently, or rather impatiently awaiting until the castellated battery could be disposed of, and the old rule of warfare fulfilled, every eye obliqued that way, and fixed on the gallant regiment which was performing this work, our attention was suddenly called to the front by the discharge of two or three cannon from the village, the effect of which was soon exhibited in sharp explosions just over the line, followed by showers of bullets, that pattered on our heads, as if a platoon had been firing from the sunny skies above us. It was a most unexpected point of assault, and one which none but a star-gazer would have anticipated. Many, who would not have flinched at a ball, coming in the true horizontal fashion, buckled a little under these military pneumatics, which, menacing the cranium so directly, seemed to fall plump on the very citadel of life at once. An officer of rank, who was walking at the time in the front of the line, where this inclination to duck and bob slightly showed itself, remarked with a hilarity that did credit to his presence of mind, that "soldiers should bow only to the ladies." This happy sally restored the line to its perpendicularity, and two small pieces of artillery, which accompanied the troops in their transit, and were then in that part of the field, being pushed to the front, returned the compliment so heartily, in good round shot, that the shrapnel showers were soon dissipated, and we were permitted once more to regard affairs on the left. They were

the debt of nature, long, perhaps, before it had become due in the ordinary course of life. There was a moment also for the circulation of brief hints of who had fallen, and who had been wounded. The uncommon degree of exposure, to which the boats had been subjected in approaching the shore, had naturally led to an apprehension that the list of these would have been large in proportion; and the eyes of each officer were cast with anxious enquiry along the line on the bank, to ascertain who had passed through the initial ordeal unhurt, and stood ready for new trials. Many a glance met glance, flashing out the whole heart on the recognition of mutual safety. There was short pause however for these interchanges. The order soon passed for the troops to file off out of the woods to the left, to gain the plain which stretched between them and the Niagara river.

We soon fell into one of the roads, or bushy alleys, that ran along nearly parallel with the bank, and at the end of a few minutes, debouched on the open grounds, forming on them, with the Lake shore in our rear, the river Niagara at some distance on our left, and the village of Newark still further in our front. This plain may have been a mile and a half, or more, square; and was so level, that our movements upon it were fully open to view from every quarter, whether from the battery, which was on our left on the river bank, or from the village in front. The former was soon perceived to be the object of chief solicitude. It did not command the path by which we would naturally pursue the retreating enemy; and if it had, the guns of Fort Niagara, within whose reach it stood, could have engrossed its attention too much for leisure to annoy us. It might have been passed by at a safe distance, and with no other risk than that of violating an old rule of warfare, one which probably lost the battle of Germantown, namely, that no enemy's post should be left behind.

Though a small battery, it had been constructed with care. Being nearly opposite to Fort Niagara, it may have been deemed obnoxious to a coup de main, and therefore closed in the rear with some strength. Perhaps our chief was not fully aware of this fact, as previous reconnoissances could have given only a front view of it; else, having neither proper artillery nor scaling ladders on the ground, the present delay and parade would probably have been deemed inexpedient, as being worse than useless.

A fine regiment of the 2d brigade was detached to reduce this threatening fortress, and fulfil the old rule of warfare. There had not appeared the slightest demonstration of hostility from its parapets. A black gun or two peeped over them, shotted, for aught we knew, up to the muzzle, and ready to knock any column in the head, that ventured within point blank distance.

But not a glimpse of matross or match could be detected by the keenest observation. This, however, might all be ambuscade or ruse de guerre; and the assailing regiment approached with every precaution which book or usage could suggest.

While this episode was being developed on the left flank, the main body, now augmented by the arrival of all the troops, was spread out on the plain, in true militia-muster style, so as to show the enemy, provided he still lingered in the village of Newark, the utmost extent of our line, and give him the broadest target for such artillery as he might have there. It is not probable that he made calculations on this chance, as he could hardly suppose the whole army would be brought to a standstill, while this "chew house" of a battery could be carried, leaving him full leisure to arrange his defences in Fort George, or to evacuate it without molestation. But, seeing us all arranged, as it were, for the special accommodation of his guns, he could not resist the temptation of giving us a few shot, even if it were only to show us his skill in hitting so difficult a mark.

The *shrapnel* shell was a projectile somewhat new to us at that time. It is a hollow shot, filled with musket balls, and exploded by a fuse the same as a bomb. It is thrown mostly by howitzers, and has the advantage of producing something like the effect of musketry at a distance far beyond the musket range. While we were standing on the plain, patiently, or rather impatiently awaiting until the castellated battery could be disposed of, and the old rule of warfare fulfilled, every eye obliqued that way, and fixed on the gallant regiment which was performing this work, our attention was suddenly called to the front by the discharge of two or three cannon from the village, the effect of which was soon exhibited in sharp explosions just over the line, followed by showers of bullets, that pattered on our heads, as if a platoon had been firing from the sunny skies above us. It was a most unexpected point of assault, and one which none but a star-gazer would have anticipated. Many, who would not have flinched at a ball, coming in the true horizontal fashion, buckled a little under these military pneumatics, which, menacing the cranium so directly, seemed to fall plump on the very citadel of life at once. An officer of rank, who was walking at the time in the front of the line, where this inclination to duck and bob slightly showed itself, remarked with a hilarity that did credit to his presence of mind, that "soldiers should bow only to the ladies." This happy sally restored the line to its perpendicularity, and two small pieces of artillery, which accompanied the troops in their transit, and were then in that part of the field, being pushed to the front, returned the compliment so heartily, in good round shot, that the shrapnel showers were soon dissipated, and we were permitted once more to regard affairs on the left. They were

brought to a crisis just about this time. The regiment, which was demonstrating its skill and boldness by the manner in which it approached the battery there, was seen to make a sudden halt almost under its postern, as if the love of an escalade had suddenly cooled off, or the uselessness, or desperation, with mere bayonets, of the enterprize, had just come to mind. Those at a distance were unable to account for this sort of resilient manœuvre, and were indebted to after chat for the information, that, at this critical moment, when the assailants, with all the hardihood of a forlorn hope, were about to rush forward on their prey, it was discovered by some prying interloper, that the place had been evacuated, and was as harmless a spectator of our movements as had been the light-house, its neighboring bugbear. The latter had been regarded by many an eye, as we came in sight of it from the woods, with deep distrust, and it was not until we had been some minutes within its range of explosion, supposing it to be all charged for that purpose, and we found it still standing bolt upright and as immovable as ever, that we felt sufficiently reassured to look another way.

All obstacles to a pursuit of the enemy being now removed, and no rule of warfare prohibiting a speedy advance, the troops were ordered to form column, and "seek the enemy wherever he could be found." This order gave latitude enough; and the line of march was taken up with alacrity, around the rear of the village, in order to open Fort George, about half a mile beyond. As we passed the church just on its skirts, some of the staff officers stepped to see to the enemy's wounded, who had been gathered there from the field of action. They paused only to plant a safeguard around it, and take a brief look of the many victims who occupied its pews and aisles, a congregation strangely contrasting with that which had probably assembled there the Sunday before. There had as yet been scarcely time for medical aid to extend its alleviations to any of the patients. They all lay as they had been hurriedly dropped in the urgency of combat or retreat, sending up moans from every corner of the sanctuary. Wounds still bled, or had been only hastily leeches, awaiting until the probe should determine whether they were such as to sap the foundations of life.

We lingered but a brief period near this scene of accumulated carnage. Our horses, which had followed our route in heavy scows, had now arrived; and the sensitive among us gladly mounted, and spurred on to the head of the column quickly forgetful, in the scenes developing there, of every thing behind. The scenes of battle are as shifting as they are intense, else they would crush all the sensibilities of the youthful heart. Each one of them presented singly, and contemplated for any length of time, would make it wither in horror. But, fortunate-

ly, the high excitements of the moment, the continual movements, on which life, death, and victory, often hang, press down the rising sympathies, and enable one to view sights with indifference, or only transient emotion, that under ordinary circumstances, would be overpowering.

As we passed on, and a view of the fort opened upon us, a scattering and hurrying train of soldiers was seen issuing from its rear gate, as if it were the loitering remnants of a retreating garrison. A more immediate object, however, at the same moment arrested the attention of the column. One of the store-houses of the enemy was just on our path, having been probably placed in that comparatively remote spot, at some distance from the river's bank, in order to protect its contents from the balls which our batteries were occasionally introducing, somewhat rudely, into all the public buildings within reach, and often bearing with them an inextinguishable torch, the smoke of whose insidious fires would, perhaps, be the first intimation of the presence of the incendiary. When the enemy found himself obliged suddenly to abandon the neighborhood, he could not persuade himself to leave these stores for the behoof of those who had been the unwelcome cause of his ejection. He, therefore, in the true dog-in-the-manger spirit of war, kindled a bon fire in the heart of them. But, luckily in this case, haste did not make the usual waste. The flames had scarcely begun their work of comprehensive cookery among these provisions, before our column appeared, and soon extinguished them, reserving the articles for a more detailed and economical appropriation. Leaving this business to be done by a sufficient detachment, the column moved rapidly on, taking the skirt of the plain towards the woods, as if somewhat shy of the fort, whose evacuation was still only conjectural. We knew that if the gates were shut against us, we were wanting in that artillery which would utter the efficacious "open sesame." But, luckily, the enemy resolved to exempt us from a second fight, sufficient for one day having been the evil thereof. He had taken advantage of the time we spent in fulfilling the old rule of warfare before the dissembling battery, to quit the fort, and get well on his way towards the heights of Queenstown; knowing that although, by leaving a garrison behind, he could baffle us by a short siege, yet he would be likely to lose it in the end, and thus more than counterbalance his gain of delaying the pursuit.

We could hardly persuade ourselves that the prey had fallen so easily into our hands; and the first persons who approached the fort, in order to ascertain the truth, were thought to incur some risk; as, having been deceived once, by finding a place evacuated which we supposed to be manned and ready for a fight, so we might be deceived again, by finding a place

manned and ready for a fight, which we supposed to be evacuated. A detachment of two companies was made from the head of the column to reconnoitre, while a few officers who were mounted, took advantage of hoof and spur, to dash first towards the place. A suspicious red coat was at the gate, an invalid or a deserter, we did not know which, who was subjected to a brief but sharp inquisition, as to the probability of mines being ready to throw any trespassers into the air. We heard as we approached, an occasional explosion of grenades, or other hollow missiles, which begat a mistrust that perils were going on within. The scarlet porter stoutly denied having knowledge of any arrangement of the kind for our injury, though he seemed reluctant to accompany us in our examination. He was, however, compelled to play the Cicerone, and we pushed into the midst of the smoking ruins.

We were aware that many of the buildings which the fort embraced had been burnt by our hot shot, but we did not anticipate seeing such a scene of complete desolation. Scarcely a remnant of quarters or barracks was standing, all that our shot had spared, having been set on fire at the moment of evacuation. If any magazine had been there, it had shared the common fate, the powder having been either expended, or previously removed. A few small shells now and then popped off, much to our annoyance and alarm, and pieces of burning match were found in some of the ammunition chests, still containing a few cartridges, put there, no doubt, with the design of giving the new occupants a salute, when they least expected it. The magnanimous enemy who put these matches in such close communion with the cartridges, must have run nearly or quite as much risk as those of us who took them out, and had he been blown up by his own train, verily he had met with his reward.

The British flag was still flying at the flagstaff. It was the sight of this national emblem waving aloft, in token of unyielded dominion, that led us to doubt, as we approached, whether the evacuation had actually taken place. Our first object on entering the fort, was to pull it down, and we all eagerly seized on the halyards, that each one might have a share in the work of abasement. But we soon perceived that we tugged in vain. The colors were nailed to the mast; or, more probably, the halyards had been intentionally so entangled in the sheave above, that all our efforts were fruitless. The only expedient seemed to be to lay an axe at the root. We accordingly obliged our Cicerone to rummage for such a tool, which he did with immediate success. Using it by turns with all the energy, though with little of the skill, of a regular woodsman, we soon made the staff totter to a fall; and as it swayed on one side, about to bear down its waving honors to the ground, we mounted conspicuously on one of the bastions nearest the American

shore, and by waving our caps in the air, led the way to a huzza from the crowd of non-combatants gathered on that side, that made every echo busy within some miles around.

There had been constructed beneath the ramparts of this fort some bomb proof store houses or barracks, which had served as a shelter during the several bombardments which had preceded the crossing. We approached the examination of these with great caution, expecting to find a Guy Fawkes in each one, though they contained only two or three females, who proved to be camp women. They had either been unable to decamp at a moment's warning, or were willing to trust themselves to the chivalry of the conquerors; though some of them appeared to have families, which would have been a bar to all hurried movements. Promises of protection and kindness were made to them, notwithstanding the uncivil objurgations that were showered on us by some of their tongues, as we prostrated the flag to which they still bore a loyal attachment.

But, in abasing the flag of the enemy, we had done only half our work. It was not sufficient that the cross of St. George was down; the star-spangled-banner should be up. This, however, since we had chopped down the staff, was not easily done. While we were endeavoring to get around the quandary, a naval officer, who had joined us, with a resource which a landsman's experience would rarely have furnished, rigged up a jury-mast on one of the bastions, which, with the assistance of a fine breeze, soon showed the thirteen stripes waving over their new jurisdiction. The distant spectators, who had cheered the descent of one flag, were not less loud in their acclamations on the ascent of the other.

This important scene was shifted with the utmost despatch. The column had passed on, and loiterers might miss the ingathering of new laurels, the harvest of which was not yet, perhaps, ended. But the contest seemed to be with legs rather than arms. Having abandoned his strong hold in that neighborhood, it was not probable that the enemy would stop to renew the luctation, unless, surpassing him in the swiftness of foot, we should be able to seize him by the rear-ward skirt, and leave him no alternative but to turn and try to shake us off. But it was like an attempt to lay salt on the tail of a bird. Our column had paraded too long below the village to get even a sight of his heels. We sallied, however, from the fort, full of hope and alacrity, and, plunging rowels into our horses' flanks, rejoined the column on the other side of the plain. The troops were all in rapid movement, flowing like a full stream along the road; but the Etat Major, as if caught by an eddy, had just been whirled into a yard by the way side.

There was a stately brick mansion on the route of the column, whose tenant, in the hurry of an evacuation, had, perhaps,

fallen heir to many a dozen of good old Port, under condition that he would use it for the benefit of the legators. This condition he well knew how to fulfil with adroitness. As our troops went sweeping by on the track of the game, he looked out for that group of horsemen, which always, whether in reality or in a print, indicates the chief presence. He had not allurements to detain a column, but he might, perhaps, find its directing power within the reach of temptation. No sooner therefore did he espy the gallant group which marked his object, than he appeared at the gate of his hospitable looking mansion, armed with blandishments of manner, and—what was far more powerful in a warm day, and after warm work—with a bottle and glass. It was not in flesh and blood to withstand the enticement. Under ordinary thirst, a good glass of Port is resisted with difficulty; it may therefore be pronounced irresistible, when the palate, as it was likely to be after a ten hours abstinence, was absolutely shriveling for the want of a drop of liquid.

Our path lay within the scope of this mansion, and nothing loth, we cantered through the gate up to the piazza, where full decanters and dripping pitchers were drawing captives around them with a Circean power. We at once perceived that there was no safety but in the saddle, and manfully resolved to drink nothing but a stirrup-cup; immediately after which we fled from this little Capua, which, had the enemy been more tardy, might chance to have saved the Rome ahead.

The pursuit was kept up with ardor, until a squadron of our cavalry, which, as the road became unobstructed, by the disappearance of the enemy, had crossed the Niagara river above, and come down to meet us, blowing four trumpets, with villainous discord, showing that we were distanced in the race, and might as well draw up. Accordingly, as soon as these facts could be communicated to the chief on the field, the column was ordered to countermarch, and encamp on the plain near Fort George.

Much of the day had past, when we found ourselves leisurely seated on the ground where we were to spend the night. Our tents and baggage being still behind, we were obliged to await their coming, before we could expect other comfort than what that ground afforded. After the fatigues we had endured, this was no small comfort. But the limbs were not the only quarter whence came loud calls for refreshment. There were cravings within, which demanded other ministrations than mere recumbency on the earth. A hasty *disjeune* before the dawn, and eaten under anticipations that probably rather blunted than sharpened the appetite, was but a scanty allowance for eight or ten hours, during which neither body nor mind had been idle. It is true that, during the heat of the contest, thirst had

predominated, and the voice of hunger is unheard amid the clamors of its cognate longing. But the Port of our loyal entertainer, and the wells of the several habitations we had passed in the pursuit, had much appeased the one, while the other was left more importunate than ever.

But we were then in a conquered country, and there were many spoils that became legitimately our own. A tent was soon found among them, and spread its wings over our heads, thus assuring us at least of a shelter. Happily, we had in the brigade an officer of peculiar and most serviceable tact. His nose was of the true sumptuary character, and his eyes of the most investigating curiosity. He could detect a shambles as far as a pointer scents his game. On this occasion, as soon as the halt permitted a little circumambulation for the purposes of discovery, he quickly ascertained a latent store of fresh beef, which being yet in the quarter, had no doubt been slaughtered the evening before, for the benefit of very different mouths from those which were now likely to appropriate it. The enemy was too much occupied about the hour of breakfast for culinary considerations, and at dinner hour he was breaking up other quarters than those of a fat beef. Quarters, therefore, of every description were left to the mercy of the conquerors. One of those detected by our friend the sumpter officer, found its way to our tent; where it was received with the mental reservation that, should a private proprietorship be thereafter proved in it, a fair remuneration should be forthcoming. The most scrupulous conscience, under circumstances of a ten hours fast, could not exact more than that. To gather fuel, and have a bed of glowing coals, was of easy accomplishment. The meat was therefore present,—the fire was present,—and jackknives were present; and a greedy appetite did not think it necessary to await the tardy arrival of mess-chest conveniences. Being provided with a slender stick, terminating in a prong, we at once had a small steak, unceremoniously sliced out of the rump or brisket, (for we were not particular,) extended over the embers, sputtering out its fat, and curling up into the form of a scroll, in token that it was under the full process of cookery. A conical, or pine-apple-shaped basket of fine salt had been conjured to the same spot, by a magic which was not anxiously enquired into; so that our *cotelettes* were not without that savor, which famine, or an Indian, alone can dispense with.

The odor of our culinary operations spread far and wide, and in a short time we had a circle around the fire, each member of it pointing his wooden flesh fork towards the centre, much after the manner of the twelve signs of the zodiac on the front of old almanacs. There we stood, regardless of smoke and heat, and regardful only of our stomachs, slicing, and broil-

ing, and eating, in rapid succession ; until the ribs, the H-bone, and even the shin, were laid almost as bare as if the quarter had been exposed to a kennel of dogs. When it first came to our tent, we counted on it as a resource for many a hearty meal : but we did not then take into calculation the cut-and-come-again voracity of our neighbors. But never were accidental guests more heartily welcome. There is no stint in the hospitality of a camp in any case, and there certainly could be none in this, where the caterer had been the enemy, and all were equally entitled to a dividend.

Nor was good wine wanting on the occasion. There was a large house in the village of Newark, which was styled the "Government house," having been the head quarters of the commanding officer on the station, or occupied by some other public functionary. The occupant drank good wine, whoever he might have been ; and in the haste of his departure that morning, he had left behind a few "dozens," which were soon discovered by one in the suite of his successor, who naturally made the cellar a very early object of inspection. A few bottles of this spoil were sent to our tent, just at the nick when our well-seasoned steaks had caused a thirst that could not ask to have been assuaged in a more agreeable manner. Glasses we had none ; but there was no difficulty in divining a *modus operandi*, by which the contents were directed into their legitimate channel.

Under the refreshing influences of these "drum-head" collations, we all lay down, as the shades of a Canadian evening closed around us, "the weary to sleep, and the wounded,"—not "to die," as we hoped, but to become convalescent from repose.

P. S. All the corrections of "a Yorker" are admitted. But he must excuse A.D.C. if, disclaiming the grave march of history, he adhere to his sort of "route step" style. He is only gleaning, where others have reaped ; and if he now and then pick up mere flowers, or even straws, it will all be in keeping with his light and excursive task. As Iago was "nothing unless critical," so A.D.C. would probably be nothing, if obliged to be grave. To chronicle "grave historical facts" alone, would be an irksome task indeed ; but there is great pleasure in recalling those thousand minor incidents of a campaign, which, though seldom recorded, are as seldom forgotten.

FOR THE MILITARY AND NAVAL MAGAZINE.

A PLEIB'S ACCOUNT OF HIMSELF.

"MY RECEPTION."

I am not a "Peter Simple," Mr. Editor, nor did I follow in his track, though I made strong efforts with the Secretary of the Navy to do so, at one time; but as Peter's entertaining adventures transpired at a distance, probably you will be pleased to hear of something which took place nearer home.

It was in the month of March, 18—, that I received a cadet's warrant, to enter the Military Academy at West Point. I cannot describe to you the joy and self-importance I felt upon the occasion; suffice it to say, no one held a higher head, or looked forward with more impatience for the 1st of June, (the time for my departure) than your humble servant; nor can I describe the bright prospects I figured to myself, and the airy castles I built on high. Let me see, "I am now fifteen; in four years I will graduate, will then be nineteen; will prefer the Engineer corps, as only No. 1 can ever get there; perhaps may put up with the Artillery; can't say yet—a *Lieut.* at 19 will certainly be a Captain at 30, perhaps at 25, will be stationed at Old Point: I know the Adj. Gen. and he will certainly send me there, and then for honor, life, and glory." Thus did I think away the passing time. The day at length arrived, and after bidding adieu to family and friends, and every thing being prepared for my comfort and convenience, I proceeded on my journey with all expedition. If my anxiety to get to my journey's end was great, I was no less gratified by my route. I had never before visited the great cities of the north, and consequently was delighted with all I saw—the monuments and pretty women of Baltimore—the smooth, clean streets, the large houses, and fine shops of Philadelphia—and the Park, Broadway, the well-dressed young men, the theatres and Niblo's of New York—all inspired me, and gave me a taste for a worldly life; and when I reflected how soon I was to be shut out from all its pleasures, and be incarcerated in such a prison as I then thought West Point was, I determined to make the best of my time, by enjoying and seeing every thing, and going every where, as I then considered myself a *young officer of the Army*; moreover as my pockets were well lined, and as I had been told, I would have no use for the "rhino" where I was going; (which, unluckily for me proved false in the sequel,) I spared no expense; and asked every *mid'n* or stranger I became acquainted with, to dine with me at the "American," where I was staying. On the 19th I left New York in the steam boat, for my place of destination. I became ac-

quainted, I know not by what means, on the passage up, with several gentlemen. Among them, a brigadier general of the army, then on his tour of inspection, who told me he expected to see my name very high on the merit roll next year : and one gentleman, who I believe had once been a cadet, gave me some good advice—to learn to say “no ;” to “study hard,” to get “no reports ;” never go to “Bennys ;” and to “room in the south barracks ;” all which I afterwards found to be the most salutary he could have given me, and which I recommend to all pleibs hereafter. After about five hours run, we passed St. Anthony's Nose, a high promontory of the highlands, and came in full view of West Point. Who can describe the beauty and majestic grandeur of the scenery here displayed ? it can only be imagined. I had read Basil Hall's work—and I here, for once, gave him credit for his remarks. I had seen engravings, and had heard descriptions of it from many ; but never before did I behold the reality, never before saw nature so “truly pictured.” Among the many passengers who crowded on one side of the boat to remark its beauty, was one middle aged man, who appeared to be a farmer, who remarked to his companion, pointing with his hand, “go over there, you'll see some of the most likely young men in the country.” I felt proud at the time, as I was so soon to be added to the number. In a few minutes more, we reached the landing ; the sentinel on the dock was ready with his slate, to take the names of the passengers. I gave mine with its title at full length, and made my way up to an officer with a sword at a little distance off, whom I took to be no less a personage than the colonel himself, (but who afterwards proved to be the sergeant of the guard) took off my hat, and told him “I had come to join the corps and report myself.” He cut me short, and called an officer in scarlet and white uniform, whom I certainly thought to be the adjutant, (but who in fact was his orderly) to take me up. I followed on by his side, and in ascending the hill, thinking he might be the officer, for whom I had a letter of introduction, I asked him with great politeness, if he was captain — ? “My name is *Kelly*,” he answered. And the officer on the dock, was that the colonel ? “The colonel—ha, ha, ha !” he burst into a loud laugh—“that's Sodine, the bombardier sergeant.” I felt quite mortified at my mistake, which was owing to my ignorance of the army uniform, and angry with the orderly, and spoke not another word, until we arrived at the gate of a large yellow house, where I followed my conductor into a kind of office down a cellar, where sat, before a table with papers, the real adjutant, a fine looking officer with whiskers, (Mr. Smith, I believe) who having taken my name, the amount of money in my possession, &c. he directed the orderly, whom by this time I began to look down upon, to take me to the treasurer's

to make my deposite, and thence to lieutenant Swift, who would assign me quarters. Very luckily for me it was Sunday evening, and the treasurer's office was shut; so by that circumstance I saved my money. Here the orderly left me, and I proceeded to Lieut. S——'s quarters as directed; on my way I met a cadet coming out of the chapel, who made up to me very politely, "presumed I had come to join the corps, would show me the way with pleasure, and concluded by asking from what state I came." I knowing the superintendent's part of the country, and thinking it would be best for my advancement, answered, "from one of the eastern states,"—he said no more. I looked round, but he was off in a tangent. I at once guessed the reason, and vowed to tell the truth next time. He was from Ohio. I found my way to the lieutenant's room, reported, and was sent to No. 31, S. B. where were already six of my future classmates—this was the effect of my coming late. The next day being the 20th, I took every thing for the best, and was much pleased. The drum beat shortly after for parade, and when I went down on the lower stoop for the first time, being very well dressed, the old cadets crowded round me very graciously. One admired my coat, and would be much obliged to me for it to go on furlough, would leave me his uniform in its place. Another asked the "loan of my cit's pants and vest"; one wanted my trunk, as it was a fine one, and one fellow even wanted my boots, saying he would give me in exchange a "pair of contracts and some gills." I of course consented to every demand, surprised as I was at their impudence, and by doing so, together with my generosity at the soda shop, which latter place of luxury I had no idea existed in this barren spot, I believe I made many friends. Next morning I was drilled two hours before breakfast, in the wet grass, and was so proficient as to advance as far as the oblique step right and left, and my drill master, a young stripling, told me I was not so "gross" as most other pleibs, the name of all new cadets. I marched to the mess hall with my class, (who were in the rear) and returned with my toes and heels so bruised, I could not drill all that day. As soon as the battalion enters the mess hall, the 1st captain gives the word "seats," each man knows his place, so they are at it directly. As soon as the captain is satisfied, he gives the word "rise," when all *must* rise, done or not. I took a ramble this morning over the Point, delivered my letters of introduction, and returned in about two hours to my room, where I found all my room-mates intently engaged in studying fractions. We were all to be examined that morning, and some old cadet had been there to tell them "that Reuben was going to find 30 deficient," which was all a hoax to frighten the poor pleibs. I, however, began to study my fractions with the rest, and was thus closely applying myself, when a

dark looking cadet, who was called D * * * * entered the room, introduced himself to me, saying he "had heard of me," and would like very much to show me the way to Benny's, if I had no objection. I remembered the advice of my steam boat friend, and modestly declined his invitation. He then replied, he hoped to be excused from being so bold, but would be much obliged for the loan of a *five*—as some friends were going to the falls, and were rather short of the rhino. To have refused would have ruined me, so I complied with his request; and he departed, saying he would bring me some apple jack. That day we were all to be examined, and being formed into sections, were marched to the chapel.

Upon entering the examination hall, who should I see in the midst of about 20 officers in uniform, seated at a large green table, but the Brig. Gen. I had seen in the boat. He eyed me sharply, and I thought what a fine opportunity I had lost of gaining his favor. Next to a large black board, which would have served for the d—l's dining table, sat a tall grum looking officer, in a frock coat and a most formidable pair of whiskers, to which ever and anon he gave a twirl, and then began his questions. This was "old Reuben," as the man who sat next, informed me, giving me a hunch; he seemed to pass me, as very luckily I had only two questions, which I answered. The principal part of our examination over, we adjourned to the library, where my after friend Claudy gave out the scrolls to write; one poor fellow near me could'nt spell the word Engineer, and he was in an awful quandary, until I came to his relief, and wrote his sentence all over, as upon his spelling that word depended his rise or fall. It was the custom then for each one to put down on paper all the branches he had ever studied. I, of course, added a long string, when an officer, who squinted a little, looking over my shoulder said, "Why, Mr. Quiff, you'll astonish the Point," and the natives too, added another, laying a particular stress on the letter *i* in natives. That evening we marched into camp, where I took up my abode for the next two months. The same night the graduating class exhibited fireworks and rockets, previous to their departure, having been detained beyond their usual term, by the arrival of the Secretary of War and his lady. Here in my tent, with two old cadets and a pleib, you must leave me, with half my wardrobe gone, and all my cit's clothes, to prepare you in my next chapter for "my first tour of guard duty."

QUIFF.

FOR THE MILITARY AND NAVAL MAGAZINE.

INFANTRY AND ARTILLERY.

The August number of the Military and Naval Magazine contains an address to the President of the United States directing his attention to the subject of the stations of those two Corps of the Army, the Artillery and the Infantry. The writer, undoubtedly an officer of the last mentioned Corps, writes with much feeling and has thrown over his remarks an air of sincerity which is the only feature of them in which we discern any merit. In the entire absence of plausibility and foundation for his arguments, he has boldly attempted to make up the deficiency, by (as he imagines) an affecting appeal to the sympathies of the President and the people. He has given us a truly pathetic description of the life of an Infantry officer; and has portrayed their numberless dangers and privations with an unsparing pen.

He commences by telling us, that there are "*many matters appertaining to the Army, calling loudly for a supervising and reforming attention.*" Although we assent most willingly to the truth of this declaration, and express our desire for the promotion of these objects, we do not think with the writer, that there is any "*class of matter relating to the Army approximating to a sound decision from frequent practical construction.*" Would that this were the case; on the contrary, we find that the volume of Army Regulations is becoming a mere cypher, that its rules and provisions are fast vanishing before General, Department, and even Post orders, by which they are superseded, and that many of the laws for the government of the Army are far from being construed in their true spirit and intent, but like the regulations, are the victims of the fickle fancy of all who take it upon themselves to interpret them. But to return to our subject. The object of the writer is to have the Infantry removed to the sea-board and the Artillery to the frontier; he endeavours to show that it is due to the Infantry as a Corps, and not only so, but that the public interest requires it. The Artillery have never asserted as a right, that they are stationed on the sea-board, neither do they esteem it in the light of a favour from the government; they have never claimed what the writer calls the "*fee simple, forgetting that they are mere tenants at will.*" But the writer appears to claim it as a right on the part of the Infantry; we would caution him to recollect that they too, are mere tenants at the will of the government. That these Corps are now properly disposed of, follows from their constitution and the service to which each is, by its nature adapted. The one is for the ser-

vice of Artillery in its various branches; and where is Artillery used? Will any one at all acquainted with military operations, pretend to controvert the opinion, that the place where a Corps is to operate in time of war, is the place for it to prepare for those operations in time of peace? where, in case of war, will the main body of the Artillery be called to serve? Will it not be in our permanent fortified places on the sea-board, constructed for the defence of our harbors and cities, or will it be in a temporary barrack or cantonment? But the writer asks, "what will the Infantry do in the fortifications?" and triumphantly answers his own question by saying, "*precisely what the Artillery now do.*" No one disputes the abilities of the Infantry to learn the performance of the ordinary duties of an Artillery garrison, but it is asked if the nature of things is thus to be inverted, why the distinction between Artillery and Infantry? why not call it all Artillery or all Infantry? If it is admitted and all know it to be a fact, that the sea coast is the proper and natural field for Artillery operations, and if the Infantry is peculiarly fitted to operate on the frontier, then the absurdity of any change must also be admitted.

It is true, that in consequence of the smallness of our Army on the peace establishment, it has always been an object with the government to have the several Corps acquainted as far as practicable, with the duties of the whole. Let us examine and see how far this desirable object has been effected. At all of the Artillery stations, the troops are perfected in the Artillery drill, as far as their numbers will permit; at all of the posts in the school of the piece, and at some in the school of the battery, sea-coast guns, &c. In addition to this they go through the Infantry drill. The writer says that Artillery duties are performed at the Infantry posts, where the means have been furnished them; True. The very fact that the government has not furnished them with these means shows that it is deemed unnecessary, and beyond their sphere of duties as a Corps. At some of the Infantry posts there are a few light pieces of field Artillery, and the troops, perhaps, learn the manual of the piece; but they have not the means of learning the school of the battery or the evolutions of batteries, or the management of sea-coast guns, and it was never intended that they should have.

The foundation then upon which their claims rest is reduced to this; that they are *competent* to learn Artillery duties. So are the officers of the Navy and the Marine Corps, of the Engineers and the Ordnance. Why do they not petition to relieve the Ordnance and the Engineers and send them to the frontier? The writer says, that the Infantry go through the same course of instruction as the Artillery; if these arguments are good for the Artillery, they are equally good for the Ord-

nance and the Engineers; for the officers of these Corps also receive their education at the Military Academy, study the same time and the same course. So much then for the claims of the Infantry to the sea coast stations.

But the writer, as if equally conscious of the weakness of those claims, and of the arguments which he uses to enforce them, attempts to show that the interest of the government is concerned. Here we have another pathetic appeal to the feelings of the President, and another relation of the multiplied privations, dangers and difficulties to which this Corps is exposed. It is granted that taking them as a body, the Infantry officers are remote from society, and are thereby deprived of some of the advantages and pleasures of civilized life. But there are many exceptions; there are some of the Infantry posts that are to be preferred to any in the Artillery, and the Artillery officers would consider themselves fortunate indeed, did the nature of their arm of the service, or the public interests allow them to participate in their privileges; but they feel that this would be a perversion of the true order of things, and that belonging to the Artillery they must share alike its evils and its favors. It is denied that the Infantry stations are more unhealthy than those of the Artillery; if we regard their relative numbers, we shall find, on the contrary, the reverse of this to be true.

But Mr. Editor, there are two points still remaining unnoticed that have an important influence on this question. The Army is supplied with officers from the graduates of the Military Academy. The Academic Staff, in recommending these graduates for promotion in the several Corps, are governed by the standing of each candidate on the merit roll of the Institution at the time of his graduation. They are arranged according to their proficiency. 1st. to the Engineers, 2d. to the Artillery, and 3d. to the Infantry, having precedence in that order. This is the grand motive for exertion on the part of the Cadet, and which urges him on through the trials and vexations which he is called upon to encounter at that noble Institution; And shall this motive be destroyed? this main spring be broken? The only way to keep alive that spirit of emulation upon which so much depends, is to preserve unalterable the relative rank and preference of these Corps, which can only be done by confining each to its proper sphere. Again: any advantages which the Artillery possess over the Infantry are balanced by that difference in their organization, which has rendered promotion more rapid in the Infantry than in the Artillery. In the Artillery there are Lieutenants who would have been Captains many years ago if they had been in the Infantry. This is one of their disadvantages and cannot be avoided. Rapidity of promotion is one of the advantages which the In-

fantry have, and to which that Corps is entitled. By removing then the Artillery from the sea-board, great injustice would be done, and their only consolation for slow promotion would be lost. If the officers of Artillery were organized into seven Regiments of Infantry, and the seven Regiments of Infantry reduced to four of Artillery, the officers of Artillery would then obtain that promotion which they have waived for the sake of the sea-board stations. This would be but simple justice, should the change be made; and for this promotion which the Infantry have enjoyed, the Artillery will most cheerfully take up their stations on the frontier.

The last argument of the writer, which is founded upon the effect of a frontier life on the morals and habits of the officer, is indeed a singular one, and does not much credit to that Corps, whose vindicator he would make himself. I at first thought to notice it, but have now changed my mind and determined to let it stand or fall upon its own merits.

These, Mr. Editor, are the sentiments of one who views every step to improvement, whether in the moral or physical condition of the Army, with feelings of satisfaction and delight; of one who duly appreciates the merits of the Infantry; this Corps deserves well of our Government. Among its officers are many who have served their country with honor and fidelity, both in peace and in war, and have gallantly shed their blood in its defence. I will go as far as any man in the support of their rights, so long as my conscience will support me; but I never can consent to sacrifice the honor and interests of the Government at the altar of private interests or human caprice.

JUSTICE.

FOR THE MILITARY AND NAVAL MAGAZINE.

The sensible letter signed "W." in the August number of the Military and Naval Magazine, I have read and (excepting the second paragraph) with much satisfaction.

The subject of his letter is one of deep interest to the Infantry arm of our service—but the unanswerable force of the arguments of your correspondent must be admitted by *all*. The Infantry and Artillery of our service, *as Corps*, differ in no particular, save in the colour of their buttons and facings, (precisely the same difference which exists amongst the different regiments of the British Army, all Infantry) and in the circumstance that one of these Corps appears to have been for eighteen years the receptacle of all the favors of the Government, while the other has for the same period, been forced to

encounter all that has been considered disagreeable in our profession.

The officers of each Corps are educated alike, the men are enlisted alike, and from the same grade of society. The duties of the two Corps are essentially the same, and have been since 1815, except, as above, that those of the Infantry are, so to speak, the *refuse* of their more fortunate brethren of the Artillery. An officer, now a first Lieutenant of Artillery, some time since was transferred from the Infantry, in which Corps, had he remained, he would have long since been a Captain. He and his friends frequently speak of the circumstance, but he is consoled (as he asserts) by the knowledge that the position of subaltern of his present Corps is more eligible than that of Captain of Infantry.

This is a state of things that ought not to continue, and of which the aggrieved Corps have an undoubted right to complain. It appears they are not to hope for redress except from the President, and to him now it is looked for as the protector of the rights of each individual of the Army. He will not be deaf to the appeal if it reaches him.

FROM THE LONDON MECHANICS' MAGAZINE.

IMPROVEMENTS IN SHIP BUILDING.

It is now upwards of twenty years since Sir Robert Seppings introduced into the Royal Navy various improvements in ship building, which are universally allowed to have imparted great additional strength, safety, and durability, to our ships of war: yet, to use the words of Mr. Knowles, (*Inquiry into the Means which have been taken to preserve the British Navy,*) such is "the jealousy incident to human nature, in properly appreciating and applying the inventions of others, or the indolence of the mind in not bringing itself to examine new methods or combinations,—these improvements, while they have been eagerly grasped by foreign nations, are but slowly introduced in the ships of our merchants, and, with an apathy hardly to be credited, are totally neglected by the first trading company in Europe, (the East India Company.)" The advantages of the improved system, however, are so manifest and indisputable, that all that was wanting to bring it into general use in the mercantile navy, was, that some influential individual connected with shipping should take it up,—should make it his business to promote its adoption, not only by his own example, but by pressing it in every possible way on the public attention; should do, in short, for the merchants' yards, what Sir

Robert Seppings has done for the king's. We are happy to say that such an individual has at length been found in Mr. Ballingall, the author of a very clever and intelligent work, which we have now before us, entitled "*The Mercantile Navy Improved*."* Mr. Ballingall has brought to the task he has undertaken, not only all the weight of an official situation of considerable prominence, but great practical experience, combined with what seldom accompanies it in men of his class, a very earnest and clear sighted desire of improvement. He candidly acknowledges "that the greater part" of the alterations in construction which he proposes to have adopted in merchant ships, are already "in practice in the Royal Navy;" but he has at the same time enhanced the utility of these alterations by so many new suggestions, and added so many valuable contrivances, entirely his own, that he has a fair claim to be considered as himself an improver of the first order.

We cannot undertake to give, within the limits to which we must needs confine ourselves, the whole details of Mr. Ballingall's system; but we shall endeavour to place in a distinct point of view before our readers, two or three of its more important features.

1. *The filling in of the timbers*; that is, bringing the ribs or frames into one compact body up to the gunwale, claims, on account of the immense consequences dependent upon it, the first place in our consideration. A ship is but an arch of peculiar adaptation, and the strength of every arch is in proportion to the mutual dependence of the parts on each other; but, according to the ordinary mode of building merchant ships, not more than one-half the timbers have such a mutual dependence. Every alternate couple of ribs only is connected together, and the intermediate timbers, (absurdly enough termed *fillings*,) are entirely unconnected with each other, resting only on the outer planking, without contributing, in the smallest degree, towards the support of the general structure. This loose and dangerous mode of construction has, at the instance of Sir Robert Seppings, been altogether abandoned in the construction of our ships of war. Every couple of ribs, without exception, is closely connected, and all the smaller interstices, as high as the floor heads, are filled in and caulked; in short, the bottom is converted into one compact solid mass, and that wholly exclusive of the outer planking. It must be evident that a ship thus constructed may sustain very considerable damage in her outer planking—lose actually

* *The Mercantile Navy Improved*; or a plan for the greater Safety of Lives and Property in Steam Vessels, Packets, Smacks, and Yachts, with Explanatory Drawings. By James Ballingall, Manager of the Kirkaldy and London Shipping Company, and Surveyor of Shipping for the Port of Kirkaldy, 1832. Morrison, London.

a plank or two, or even her keel—and yet reach the place of her destination; while the loss of even a portion of a single plank, or of the keel, would be the destruction of a vessel built on the present mode. When water gets once past the outside planking of an ordinary vessel, nothing but the pumps can save it; and should these get choked, or the crew become exhausted in working them, (both very common cases,) she must go down. From numerous illustrative instances adduced by Mr. Ballingall, of the advantage which ships of war possess over merchant vessels in this respect, we quote the following:—

“On or about the same ledge of rocks on which the *Wolf* sloop of war struck, and lay fast for two nights and a day, in March, 1830, at the back of the Isle of Wight, the vessel, at the time she struck, going at a considerable rate through the water, at the very top of high water of a high spring tide, and with a considerable swell on, and which vessel was got off again, and is now in the East Indies, having been dragged over the rocks for half a mile by assistance from Spithead, the vessel beating very hard upon the rocks with the lift of the sea all the time, the *Carn Brea Castle*, free trader to India, was lost only a few months before, having got ashore under more favourable circumstances for getting off again. What could this be owing to? The ships were nearly, I believe of similar tonnage. The answer is plain and obvious. The *Wolf* had a solid bottom of fifteen inches thick at the keel, being twelve inches of timbers and three inches of outside plank, without allowing her to have had any ceiling. The *Carn Brea Castle* would only have an outside bottom plank to protect her, of, I presume, three inches thick. Yet this vessel would have timbers of twelve inches thick, if no more, and a ceiling plank of, I also presume, three inches thick, making three inches more than the sloop of war, but neither of which were of the least use to her in keeping out the water. Had her timbers been close and her ceiling been caulked, she would have had one more protection than the sloop of war, viz. the ceiling plank, without taking any thing from her stowage, and the fair inference is, that she would have been got off and preserved.”

Mr. Knowles, in a letter to Mr. Ballingall, dated “Navy Office, October 24, 1831,” states that “the whole navy proves that the ships with solid bottoms have been more durable than they used to be when openings were left,” and he particularly specifies the case of the *Success*, which went ashore in Cockburn Sound, when “the whole keel was carried away, also the lower piece of stern, five feet four inches of the stern-post, four pieces of the dead wood, nine strakes of the bottom, amidships, and many strakes in the bows, and yet this ship was floated off.”

Sir Robert Seppings has justly the credit of introducing this practice into the Royal Dock Yards; but when in office he had himself the liberality to point out to Mr. Ballingall, in the model room at the Navy Office, the model of a brig called the *Lady Nelson*, which was built about 1790, under the directions of Admiral Schanks, on the principle of a perfect union of the timbers, and is now, after a lapse of thirty-two years, still running, and "tight as a bottle."

Mr. Ballingall thinks that "nearly all the vessels which have been lost by foundering and collision, might have been saved, if the vessels had had solid bottoms;" and there can be no question that the loss of life and property from the neglect of this mode of construction, is annually immense.

2. *Caulking the whole of the ceiling, or inner planking of the vessel*, and thus making it water-tight. This is contrary to the practice pursued in the Royal Navy, and, we are induced to think, somewhat superfluous, but is strongly recommended by Mr. Ballingall, on the ground of its affording a double security against a leak. If this however, be done, it will be naturally asked how any water, which may have got into the vessel from in-board, is to get to the pumps to be pumped out? The answer to this question brings us to Mr. B.'s third important improvement, which consists in—

3. An improvement in the water-courses, by means of what are called percolators.

"I would propose a water-course to be led alongside the keelson on each side, as far forward and aft as may be required from the spring of the vessel raised above the level of the adjoining ceiling, by what I would call percolators, and the bottom of said water-course sunk at least an inch and a half, or more, below the level of the adjoining ceiling, to allow any water which might get into the vessel to drain off the ceiling into this water-course. There should be a gradual acclivity forward and aft, to cause the water to flow readily along the water-courses to the bottom of the pumps. This would be greatly assisted by the spring of the vessel. In men-of-war, East and West India ships, and, in general, in all vessels which either carry no cargoes, or their cargoes in packages, these percolators may be readily made of strong and thick oak battens, fastened to the ceiling close to the water-courses, and raised from six to eight inches high above the ceiling, with notches cut in the under edges or sides of them, similar to, I believe, the present practice in the navy. These water-courses to be covered with limber boards, as at present, and the boards would not be required to be tight on the top; the boards to be slipped up to the keelson."

Mr. Ballingall does not propose these percolators simply because they obviate the objection before stated to the caul-

ing of the ceiling, but for this further reason, that, whether the ceiling is caulked or not, they furnish a better means of conveying the water to the pumps, and keeping the pumps clean than any now in use, while at the same time they contribute considerable additional stability to the vessel.

Among the subordinate advantages attending this improved system of ship building, there are two which are particularly deserving of notice: one is the greater security from fire which it affords, in consequence of all the vacancies, which at present act as so many funnels to the flame, being filled up; and the other, the protection obtained from vermin, in consequence of their being no harbour left for them between the timbers and the inside and outside planks.

Various objections to the system will naturally suggest themselves to the minds of practical men; it is certain, also, that the improvements which it embraces are not equally applicable to all merchant ships: but before any ship-builder or ship-owner rejects it on either account, we would earnestly advise him to send for Mr. Ballingall's book, where he will find nearly every possible objection very frankly discussed, and every modification which particular circumstances may call for, provided for with great intelligence and ability.

We perceive from a letter which Mr. B. has published, from Messrs. Ogilvie and Crichton, of Leith, the builders of the Royal Adelaide steam-ship, (one of those which ply between London and Edinburgh,) that "she has been built, in most respects, upon the plan now recommended," and that it is the intention of the company to which it belongs to adhere to that plan "in any vessels which they may hereafter build." We trust that so judicious and spirited an example will not be long without numerous imitators.

Mr. B.'s book contains also instructions for rendering vessels, already built on the present plan, more secure, at a cheap rate. He particularly recommends a revival of the plan of placing a doubling on ships, as was proposed as far back as 1792, by Mr. Snodgrass, surveyor of shipping to the East India Company. Mr. S.'s plan was "that no ship should have a thorough repair; but instead of this, that its bottoms and upper works should be doubled with three inch oak plank, from keel to gunwale, and strengthened with knees, standards, and even iron riders, if necessary, all which might be done at a small expense." Mr. S. thought that ships so repaired would "be stronger and safer, and be able to keep the seas longer in the worst weather, than new ships," (that is, new ships on the old construction;) and in this opinion Mr. Ballingall perfectly concurs. The company of which Mr. B. is manager have had two of their smacks, the Enterprize and the Fifeshire, thus doubled; and it appears from the following

paragraph, which we extract from the *Scotchman* of the 28th November last, that the result has been most satisfactory:—

“We understand that since the Kirkaldy and London Shipping Company’s smacks, *Enterprize* and *Fifeshire*, have been fitted with double bottoms, they have frequently been deeply laden—have encountered very stormy and tempestuous weather—and were both at sea during the late very severe storm on the 10th current, when so many vessels were wrecked, and have not admitted a drop of water through their bottoms or sides.”

FOR THE MILITARY AND NAVAL MAGAZINE.

PETTY OFFICERS OF THE NAVY.

In a former paper I gave some hints, which I hope may be useful to the gradual increase of certain petty officers indispensable to the naval service. I will now endeavor to shew, that the time has arrived, when it has become the duty of the general government to do all in its power to add to the number of seamen. The coasting trade of our country has of late years been diminishing, because less necessary, in consequence of the many improvements in steam navigation, the construction of canals and of rail-roads; we are only as yet in our infancy in these improvements, and from what has already taken place, we may reasonably apprehend that these interior facilities of communication, will scarcely attain maturity before a trade, which added annually a number of seamen to our navy, will be altogether abandoned. Independent of this trade, the craft in all our large rivers, prepared many to embrace the profession of a sailor. This too is being superseded so fast, as now, compared with former times, to be scarcely met with on the rivers Hudson and Delaware. Some few years ago, nothing was to be seen but vessels of this description, having on board from 3 to 6 hands. With these facts before us, it certainly becomes the government of the country, by every proper means, to substitute other resources, and to provide some way by which the navy, when ordered on service, shall not, from want of men, be unable to quit our harbors. Suppose, for a moment, a war among the European powers, conducted on the usual principle of those wars, whenever England has been a party; would it not be necessary to the security of commerce, and to the maintenance of the respect due the flag of our country, that the navy should be efficiently employed in almost every quarter of the world; most certainly it would; but from the anxieties I hear

constantly expressed by our gallant officers, I feel confident that more difficulties would be met with, than could be overcome by any exertions of theirs, in manning our ships. I should wish that we could be independent of the world, at least in a military point of view ; our officers are equal, if not superior, to those of other nations ; our ships are worthy of such officers, and all we want to render us at all times ready to meet an enemy, or to prevent, or to avenge an insult to our flag on the ocean, is an adequate number of seamen. I have engaged partially in commerce, and never can forget the entire security I felt, not only for my person but my property, whenever so fortunate as to meet any of our public vessels on the ocean. I have also been a grumbler on many occasions, when in difficulty, and no public vessel at hand to assist me. The commerce of our country I know expects protection, whenever it is necessary that it should have it. Witness the repeated calls of this nature on the Navy Department, from almost every part of the globe. This being the case, commerce should (as an old sailor once observed to me) lend a hand, and do all in her power to make that navy efficient, which has been created and directed for her security and protection.

The manner in which I would enlist her aid, should not be felt as taking from the profits or safety of the voyage. It is this : let Congress pass a law, requiring the commander of every vessel bound on a foreign voyage, to take on board, either as apprentices or otherwise, a certain number of boys proportioned to the tonnage, say to vessels of 100 to 200 tons, four boys ; from 200 to 300 tons, five boys ; and so on in like ratio. And let regulations be made to govern the conduct of masters and owners of vessels towards such boys, and severe and heavy penalties be enforced against both, should they not be returned to the country. This, when our extensive commerce is taken into consideration, would in a few years add numbers to that valued class of men, so much wanted for the navy ; and of course for the protection of merchants' property on the ocean.

A LANDSMAN.

The above was written before seeing your last number, in which "A Seaman" tells us, that the navy has a number of good seamen. I hope, Mr. Editor, that A Landsman is not misunderstood. He does not mean to say, that the seamen in the navy are not of the best, nay the very best ; but that there are not enough of them, should a sudden emergency call for a large increase of our present force on the ocean.

A L.

FROM THE LONDON METROPOLITAN, FOR JULY 1832.

PETER SIMPLE.

BY THE AUTHOR OF NEWTON FOSTER.

When I began to wake the next morning I could not think what it was that felt like a weight upon my chest, but as I roused and recalled my scattered thoughts, I remembered that in an hour or two it would be decided whether I was to exist another day. I prayed fervently, and made a resolution in my own mind that I would not have the blood of another upon my conscience, and would fire my pistol up in the air. And after I had made that resolution I no longer felt the alarm which I did before. Before I was dressed, the midshipman who had volunteered to be my second, came into my room and informed me that the affair was to be decided in the garden behind the inn; that my adversary was a very good shot, and that I must expect to be winged if not drilled.

"And what is winged and drilled," inquired I; "I have not only never fought a duel, but I have not even fired a pistol in my life."

He explained what he meant, which was, that being winged implied being shot through the arm or leg, whereas being drilled was to be shot through the body. "But," continued he, "is it possible that you have never fought a duel?"

"No," replied I, "I am not yet fifteen years old."

"Not fifteen? why I thought you were eighteen at the least." (But I was very tall and stout for my age, and people generally thought me older than what I was.)

I dressed myself and followed my second into the garden, where I found all the midshipmen and some of the waiters of the inn. They all seemed very merry, as if the life of a fellow-creature was of no consequence. The seconds talked apart for a little while, and then measured the ground which was twelve paces; we then took our stations. I believe that I turned pale, for my second came to my side and whispered that I must not be frightened. I replied that I was not frightened, but I considered that it was an awful moment. The second to my adversary then came up, and asked me whether I would make an apology, which I refused to do, as before: they handed a pistol to each of us, and my second showed me how I was to pull the trigger. It was arranged that at the word given, we were to fire at the same time. I made sure that I should be wounded, if not killed, and I shut my eyes as I fired my pistol in the air. I felt my head swim, and thought I was hurt, but fortunately I was not. The pistols were loaded again, and we fired a second time. The seconds then in-

terfered, and it was proposed that we should shake hands, which I was very glad to do, for I considered my life to have been saved by a miracle. We all went back to the coffee-room, and sat down to breakfast. They then told me that they all belonged to the same ship that I did, and that they were glad to see that I could stand fire, for the captain was a terrible fellow for cutting out and running under the enemies' batteries.

The next day my chest arrived by the waggon, and I threw off my "bottle-greens" and put on my uniform. I had no cocked hat or dirk, as the warehouse people employed by Mr. Handycock, did not supply those articles, and it was arranged that I should procure them at Portsmouth. When I inquired the price, I found that they cost more money than I had in my pocket, so I tore up the letter I had written to my mother before the duel, and wrote another asking for a remittance to purchase my dirk and cocked hat. I then walked out in my uniform, not a little proud I must confess. I was now an officer in his Majesty's service, not very high in rank certainly, but still an officer and a gentleman, and I made a vow that I would support the character, although I was considered the greatest fool of the family.

I had arrived opposite a place called Sally Port, when a young lady very nicely dressed, looked at me very hard and said, "Well, Reefer, how are you off for soap?" I was astonished at the question, and more so at the interest which she seemed to take in my affairs. I answered, "Thank you, I am very well off; I have four cakes of Windsor, and two bars of yellow for washing." She laughed at my reply, and asked me whether I would walk home and take a bit of dinner with her. I was astonished at this polite offer, which my modesty induced me to ascribe more to my uniform than to my own merits, and as I felt no inclination to refuse the compliment, I said that I should be most happy. I thought I might venture to offer my arm, which she accepted, and we proceeded up High Street on our way to her home.

Just as we passed the admiral's house, I perceived my captain walking with two of the admiral's daughters. I was not a little proud to let him see that I had female acquaintances as well as he had, and as I passed him with the young lady under my protection, I took off my hat and made him a low bow. To my surprise, not only did he not return the salute, but he looked at me with a very stern countenance. I concluded that he was a very proud man, and did not wish the admiral's daughters to suppose that he knew midshipmen by sight; but I had not exactly made up my mind on the subject, when the captain, having seen the ladies into the admiral's house, sent one of the messengers after me to desire that I would immediately come to him at the George Inn, which was nearly opposite.

I apologised to the young lady, and promised to return immediately if she would wait for me ; but she replied, that, "if that was my captain, it was her idea that I should have a confounded wiggling and be sent on board." So, wishing me good bye, she left me and continued her way home. I could as little comprehend all this as why the captain looked so black when I passed him ; but it was soon explained when I went up to him in the parlour at the George Inn. "I am sorry, Mr. Simple," said the captain when I entered, "that a lad like you should show such early symptoms of depravity ; still more so, that he should not have the grace which even the most hardened are not wholly destitute of—I mean to practise immorality in secret, and not degrade themselves and insult their captain by unblushingly avowing (I may say glorying in) their iniquity, by exposing it in broad day, and in the most frequented street of the town."

"Sir," replied I, with astonishment, "O dear ! O dear ! what have I done ?"

The captain fixed his keen eyes upon me, so that they appeared to pierce me through and nail me to the wall. "Do you pretend to say, Sir, that you were not aware of the character of the person with whom you were walking just now ?"

"No, Sir," replied I, except that she was very kind and good-natured ;" and then I told him how she had addressed me, and what subsequently took place.

"And is it possible, Mr. Simple, that you are so great a fool ?" I replied, that I certainly was considered the greatest fool in our family. "I should think you were," replied he drily. He then explained to me who the person was with whom I was in company, and how any association with her would inevitably lead to my ruin and disgrace.

I cried very much, for I was shocked at the narrow escape which I had had, and mortified at having fallen in his good opinion. He asked me how I had employed my time since I had been at Portsmouth, and I made an acknowledgement of my having been made tipsy, related all that the midshipmen had told me, and how I had that morning fought a duel.

He listened to my whole story very attentively, and I thought that occasionally there was a smile upon his face, although he bit his lips to prevent it. When I had finished, he said, "Mr. Simple, I can no longer trust you on shore until you are more experienced in the world. I shall desire my coxswain not to lose sight of you until you are safe on board of the frigate.—When you have sailed a few months with me, you will then be able to decide whether I deserve the character which the young gentlemen have painted with, I must say I believe, the sole intention of practising upon your inexperience."

Altogether I did not feel sorry when it was over. I saw that

the captain believed what I had stated, and that he was disposed to be kind to me, although he thought me very silly. The coxswain, in obedience to his orders, accompanied me to the Blue Posts. I packed up my clothes, paid my bill, and the porter wheeled my chest down to the Sally Port, where the boat was waiting.

"Come, heave a-head, my lads, be smart. The captain says we are to take the young gentleman on board directly. His liberty's stopped for getting drunk and running after the Dolly Mops!"

"I should thank you to be more respectful in your remarks, Mr. Coxswain," said I with displeasure.

"Mister Coxswain! thanky Sir, for giving me a handle to my name," replied he. "Come, be smart with your oars, my lads!"

"La, Bill Freeman," said a young woman on the beach, "what a nice young gentleman you have there. He looks like a sucking Nelson. I say, my pretty young officer, could you lend me a shilling?"

I was so pleased at the woman calling me a young Nelson, that I immediately complied with her request. "I have not a shilling in my pocket," said I, "but here is half-a-crown, and you can change it and bring me back the eighteen-pence."—"Well, you are a nice young man," replied she, taking the half-crown. "I'll be back directly, my dear."

The men in the boat laughed, and the coxswain desired them to shove off.

"No," observed I, "you must wait for my eighteen-pence."

"We shall wait a devilish long while then, I suspect. I know that girl, and she has a very bad memory."

"She cannot be so dishonest or ungrateful," replied I. "Coxswain, I order you to stay—I am an officer."

"I know you are, Sir, about six hours old; well, then, I must go up and tell the captain that you have another girl in tow, and that you won't go on board."

"O no, Mr. Coxswain, pray don't; shove off as soon as you please, and never mind the eighteen-pence."

The boat then shoved off, and pulled towards the ship, which lay at Spithead.

On our arrival on board, the coxswain gave a note from the captain to the first lieutenant, who was on deck. He read the note, and then looked at me, and then I overheard him say to another lieutenant, "The service is going to the devil. As long as it was not popular, if we had not much education, we at least had a chance of natural abilities; but now that great people send their sons for a provision into the navy, we have all the refuse of their families, as if any thing was good enough to make a captain of a man-of-war, who has occasionally more

responsibility on his shoulders, and is placed in situations requiring more judgment, than any other people in existence. Here's another of the fools of a family made a present of to the country—another cub for me to lick into shape. Well, I never saw the one yet I did not make something of. Where's Mr. Simple?"

"I am Mr. Simple, Sir," replied I, very much frightened at what I had overheard.

"Now, Mr. Simple," said the first lieutenant, "observe, pay particular attention to what I say. The captain tells me in this note that you have been shamming stupid. Now, Sir, I am not to be taken in that way. You're something like the monkeys who won't speak, because they are afraid they will be made to work. I have looked attentively at your face, and I see at once that you are *very clever*, and if you do not prove so in a very short time, why—you had better jump overboard, that's all. Perfectly understand me. I know that you are a very clever fellow, and having told you so, don't you pretend to impose upon me, for it won't do.

I was very much terrified at this speech, but at the same time I was pleased to hear that he thought me clever, and I determined to do all in my power to keep up such an unexpected reputation.

"Quarter-master," said the first lieutenant, "tell Mr. Trotter to come on deck."

The quarter-master brought up Mr. Trotter, who apologised for being so dirty, as he was breaking casks out of the hold. He was a short thick-set man, about thirty years of age, with a nose which had a red club to it, very dirty teeth, and large black whiskers.

"Mr. Trotter," said the first lieutenant, "here is a young gentleman who has joined the ship. Introduce him into the berth, and see his hammock slung. You must look after him a little."

"I really have very little time to look after any of them, Sir," replied Mr. Trotter, "but I will do what I can. Follow me, youngster." Accordingly I descended the ladder after him, then I went down another, and then to my surprise I was desired by him to go down a third, when he informed me that I was in the cock-pit.

"Now, youngster," said Mr. Trotter, seating himself upon a large chest, "you may do as you please. The midshipmen's mess is on the deck above this, and if you like to join, why you can; but this I will tell you as a friend, that you will be thrashed all day long, and fare very badly; the weakest always goes to the wall there, but perhaps you do not mind that. Now that we are in harbor, I mess here because Mrs. Trotter is on board. She is a very charming woman I can assure you, and

will be here directly; she has just gone up into the galley to look after a net of potatoes in the copper. If you like it better, I will ask her permission for you to mess with us. You will then be away from the midshipmen, who are a sad set, and will teach you nothing but what is immoral and improper, and you will have the advantage of being in good society, for Mrs. Trotter has kept the very best in England. I make you this offer, because I want to oblige the first lieutenant, who appears to take an interest about you, otherwise I am not very fond of having any intrusion upon my domestic happiness."

I replied that I was much obliged to him for his kindness, and that if it would not put Mrs. Trotter to an inconvenience, I should be happy to accept of his offer; indeed I thought myself very fortunate in having met with such a friend. I had scarcely time to reply when I perceived a pair of legs, cased in black cotton stockings, on the ladder above us, and it proved that they belonged to Mrs. Trotter, who came down the ladder with a net full of smoking potatoes.

"Upon my word, Mrs. Trotter, you must be conscious of having a very pretty ancle, or you would not venture to display it as you have done to Mr. Simple, a young gentleman whom I beg to introduce to you, and who, with your permission, will join our mess."

"My dear Trotter, how cruel of you not to give me warning; I thought that nobody was below. I declare I'm so ashamed," continued the lady simpering, and covering her face with the hand which was unemployed.

"It can't be helped now, my love, neither was there any thing to be ashamed of. I trust Mr. Simple and you will be very good friends. I believe I mentioned his desire to join our mess."

"I am sure I shall be very happy in his company. This is a strange place for me to live in, Mr. Simple, after the society to which I have been accustomed; but affection can make any sacrifice, and rather than lose the company of my dear Trotter, who has been unfortunate in pecuniary matters—"

"Say no more about it, my love. Domestic happiness is every thing, and will enliven even the gloom of a cock-pit."

"And yet," continued Mrs. Trotter, "when I think of the time when we used to live in London, and keep our carriage. Have you ever been in London, Mr. Simple?"

I answered that I had.

"Then, probably, you may have been acquainted with, or have heard of, the Smiths."

"I replied that the only people I knew there, were a Mr. and Mrs. Handycrack."

"Well, if I had known that you were in London, I should have been very glad to have given you a letter of introduction

to the Smiths. They are quite the topping people of the place."

"But, my dear," interrupted Mr. Trotter, "is it not time to look after our dinner?"

"Yes; I am going forward for it now. We have skewer pieces to-day. Mr. Simple, will you excuse me?"—and then, with a great deal of flirtation and laughing about her ancles, and requesting me as a favor to turn my face away, Mrs. Trotter ascended the ladder.

As the reader may wish to know what sort of looking personage she was, I will take the opportunity to describe her.—Her figure was very good, and at one period of her life I thought her face must have been very handsome; at the time I was introduced to her, it showed the ravages of time or hardship very distinctly; in short, she might be termed a faded beauty, flaunting in her dress, and not very clean in her person.

"Charming woman, Mrs. Trotter, is she not, Mr. Simple?" said the master's mate, to which of course I immediately acquiesced. "Now, Mr. Simple," continued he, "there are a few arrangements which I had better mention while Mrs. Trotter is away, for she would be shocked at our talking about such things. Of course the style of living which we indulge in is rather expensive. Mrs. Trotter cannot dispense with her tea, and her other little comforts. At the same time I must put you to no extra expense, I had rather be out of pocket myself. I propose that during the time you mess with us, you shall only pay one guinea per week, and as for entrance money, why I think I must not charge you more than a couple of guineas. Have you any money?"

"Yes," I replied, I have three guineas and a half left."

"Well, then, give me the three guineas, and the half-guinea you can reserve for pocket money. You must write to your friends immediately for a further supply."

I handed him the money, which he put in his pocket. "Your chest," continued he, "you shall bring down here, for Mrs. Trotter will I am sure, if I request it, not only keep it in order for you, but see that your clothes are properly mended. She is a charming woman, Mrs. Trotter, and very fond of young gentlemen. How old are you?"

I replied that I was fifteen.

"No more! well, I am glad of that, for Mrs. Trotter is very particular after a certain age. I should recommend you on no account to associate with the other midshipmen. They are very angry with me, because I would not permit Mrs. Trotter to join their mess, and they are sad story tellers."

"That they certainly are," replied I; but here we were interrupted by Mrs. Trotter coming down with a piece of stick in her hand, upon which were skewered about a dozen small

pieces of beef and pork, which she first laid on a plate, and then began to lay the cloth, and prepare for dinner.

"Mr. Simple is only fifteen, my dear," observed Mr. Trotter.

"Dear me," replied Mrs. Trotter, "why how tall he is! He is quite as tall for his age, as young Lord Foutvetown, whom you used to take out with you in the *chay*. Do you know Lord Foutvetown, Mr. Simple?"

"No, I do not, ma'am," replied I, but wishing to let them know that I was well connected, I continued, "but I dare say that my grandfather, Lord Privilege, does."

"God bless me, is Lord Privilege your grandfather? Well, I thought I saw a likeness somewhere. Don't you recollect Lord Privilege, my dear Trotter, that we met at Lady Scamp's—an elderly person? It's very ungrateful of you not to recollect him, for he sent you a very fine haunch of venison."

"Privilege, bless me, yes. O yes! an old gentleman, is he not?" said Mr. Trotter, appealing to me.

"Yes, Sir," replied I, quite delighted to find myself among those who were acquainted with my family.

"Well, then, Mr. Simple," said Mrs. Trotter, "since we have the pleasure of being acquainted with your family, I shall now take you under my own charge, and I shall be so fond of you, that Trotter shall become quite jealous," added she laughing. "We have but a poor dinner to-day, for the bum-boat woman disappointed me. I particularly requested her to bring me off a leg of lamb, but she says that there was none in the market. It is rather early for it, that's true, but Trotter is very nice in his eating. Now let us sit down to dinner."

I felt very sick indeed, and could eat nothing. Our dinner consisted of the pieces of leef and pork, the potatoes, and a baked pudding in a tin dish. Mr. Trotter went up to serve the spirits out to the ship's company, and returned with a bottle of rum.

"Have you got Mr. Simple's allowance, my love?" inquired Mrs. Trotter.

"Yes, he is victualled to day, as he came on board before twelve o'clock. Do you drink spirits, Mr. Simple?"

"No, I thank you," replied I, for I remembered the captain's injunction.

"Taking, as I do, such an interest in your welfare, I must earnestly recommend you to abstain from them," said Mr. Trotter. "It is a very bad habit, and once acquired not easy to be left off. I am obliged to drink them that I may not check the perspiration after working in the hold; I have, nevertheless a natural abhorrence of them, but my champagne and claret days are gone by, and I must submit to circumstances."

"My poor Trotter!" said the lady.

"Well," continued he, "its a poor heart that never rejoiceth." He then poured out half a tumbler of rum, and filled the glass up with water.

"My love, will you taste it?"

"Now, Trotter, you know that I never touch it, except when the water is so bad, that I must have the taste taken away. How is the water to-day?"

"As usual, my dear, not drinkable." After much persuasion, Mrs. Trotter agreed to sip a little out of his glass. I thought that she took it pretty often considering that she did not like it, but I felt so unwell that I was obliged to go on the main deck. There I was met by a midshipman whom I had not seen before. He looked very earnestly in my face, and then asked my name. "Simple," said he; "what, are you the son of old Simple?"

"Yes, Sir," replied I, astonished that so many should know my family. "Well, I thought so by the likeness. And how is your father?" "Very well, I thank you, Sir."

"When you write to him, make my compliments, and tell him that I desired to be particularly remembered to him;" and he walked forward, but as he forgot to mention his own name I could not do it.

I went to bed very tired; Mr. Trotter had my hammock hung up in the cock-pit, separated by a canvass screen from the cot in which he slept with his wife. I thought this very odd, but they told me it was the general custom on board ship, although Mrs. Trotter's delicacy was very much shocked by it. I was very sick, but Mrs. Trotter was very kind. When I was in bed she kissed me and wished me good night, and very soon afterwards I fell fast asleep.

I awoke the next morning at day-light with a noise over my head which sounded like thunder; I found it proceeded from holystoning and washing down the main deck. I was very much refreshed, nevertheless, and did not feel the least sick or giddy. Mr. Trotter, who had been up at four o'clock, came down and directed one of the matines to fetch me some water. I washed myself on my chest, and then went on the main deck, which they were swabbing dry. Standing by the sentry at the cabin door, I met one of the midshipmen with whom I had been in company at the "Blue Posts."

"So, Master Simple, old Trotter and his faggot of a wife have got hold of you—have they?" said he. I replied that I did not know the meaning of faggot, but that I considered Mrs. Trotter a very charming woman. At which he burst into a loud laugh. "Well," said he, "I'll just give you a caution. Take care, or they'll make a clean sweep. Has Mrs. Trotter shown you her ancle yet?" "Yes," I replied, "and a very pretty one it is."

"Ah! she's at her old tricks. You had much better have joined our mess at once. You're not the first greenhorn that they have plucked. Well," said he, as he walked away, "keep the key of your own chest—that's all."

But as Mr. Trotter had warned me that the midshipmen would abuse them, I paid very little attention to what he said. When he left me I went on the quarter-deck. All the sailors were busy at work, and the first lieutenant cried out to the gunner, "Now, Mr. Dispart, if you are ready we'll breech these guns."

"Now, my lads," said the first lieutenant, "we must slue (the part that the breeches cover) more forward." As I never heard of a gun having breeches, I was very curious to see what was going on, and went up close to the first lieutenant, who said to me, "Youngster, hand me that monkey's tail." I saw nothing like a monkey's tail, but I was so frightened that I snatched up the first thing which I saw, which was a short bar of iron, and it so happened that it was the very article which he wanted. When I gave it to him, the first lieutenant looked at me, and said, "so you know what a monkey's tail is already, do you? Now don't you ever sham stupid after that."

Thought I to myself, I'm very lucky, but if that's a monkey's tail it's a very stiff one!

I resolved to learn the names of every thing as fast as I could, that I might be prepared, so I listened attentively to what was said; but I soon became quite confused, and despaired of remembering any thing.

"How is this to be finished off, Sir?" inquired a sailor of the boatswain.

"Why, I beg leave to hint to you, Sir, in the most delicate manner in the world," replied the boatswain, "that it must be with a *double-wall*—and be d——d to you—don't you know that yet? Captain of the foretop," said he, "up on your *horses*, and take your *stirrups* up three inches."—"Aye, aye, Sir." (I looked and looked, but I could see no horses.)

"Mr. Chucks," said the first lieutenant to the boatswain, "what blocks have we below—not on charge?"

"Let me see, Sir, I've one *sister*, t'other we split in half the other day, and I thinks I have a couple of *monkeys* down in the store-room. I say, you Smith, pass that brace through the bull's eye, and take the *sheep-shank* out before you come down."

And then he asked the first lieutenant whether something should not be fitted with a *mouse* or only a *turk's-head*—told him the *goose-neck* must be spread out by the armorer as soon as the forge was up. In short, what with *dead-eyes* and *shrouds*, *cats* and *cat-blocks*, *dolphins* and *dolphin-strikers*, *whips* and *pud-dings*, I was so puzzled with what I heard that I was about to leave the deck in absolute despair.

"And, Mr. Chucks, recollect this afternoon that you *bleed* all the *buoys*."

Bleed the boys, thought I, what can that be for; at all events, the surgeon appears to be the proper person to perform that operation.

This last incomprehensible remark drove me off the deck, and I retreated to the cock-pit, where I found Mrs. Trotter.—"O my dear!" said she, "I am glad you are come, as I wish to put your clothes in order. Have you a list of them—where is your key?" I replied that I had not a list, and I handed her the key, although I did not forget the caution of the midshipman; yet I considered that there could be no harm in her looking over my clothes when I was present. She unlocked my chest, and pulled every thing out, and then commenced telling me what were likely to be useful and what were not.

"Now these worsted stockings," she said, "will be very comfortable in cold weather, and in the summer time these brown cotton socks will be delightfully cool, and you have enough of each to last you till you outgrow them; but as for these fine cotton stockings they are of no use—only catch the dirt when the decks are swept, and always look untidy. I wonder how they could be so foolish as to send them; nobody wears them on board ship now-a-days. They are only fit for women—I wonder if they would fit me." She turned her chair away, and put on one of my stockings, laughing the whole of the time. Then she turned round to me, and showed me how nice they fitted her. "Bless you, Mr. Simple, it's well that Trotter is in the hold, he'd be so jealous—do you know what these stockings cost? They are no use to you and they fit me. I will speak to Trotter, and take them off your hands." I replied that I could not think of selling them, and as they were of no use to me and fitted her, I begged that she would accept of the dozen pair. At first she positively refused, but as I pressed her, she at last consented, and I was very happy to give them to her as she was very kind to me, and I thought, with her husband, that she was a very charming woman. We had beef-steaks and onions for dinner that day, but I could not bear the smell of the onions. Mr. Trotter came down very cross, because the first lieutenant had found fault with him. He swore that he would cut the service—that he had only remained to oblige the captain, who said he would sooner part with his right arm, and that he would demand satisfaction of the first lieutenant as soon as he could obtain his discharge. Mrs. Trotter did all she could to pacify him, reminded him that he had the protection of Lord this, and Sir Thomas that, who would see him righted; but in vain. The first lieutenant had told him, he said, that he was not worth his salt, and blood only could wipe away the insult. He drank glass of grog after glass

of grog, and each glass became more violent, and Mrs. Trotter drank also, I observed, a great deal more than I thought she ought to have done; but she whispered to me that she drank it that Trotter might not, as he would certainly be tipsy. I thought this very devoted on her part, but they sat so late that I went to bed and left them; he still drinking, and vowing vengeance against the first lieutenant. I had not been asleep more than two or three hours, when I was awakened by a great noise and quarrelling, and I discovered that Mr. Trotter was drunk, and beating his wife. Very much shocked that such a charming woman should be beat and ill-used, I scrambled out of my hammock to see if I could be of any assistance, but it was dark, although they scuffled as much as before. I asked the marine, who was sentry at the gun-room door above, to bring his lantern, and was very much shocked at his replying that I had better go to bed, and let them fight it out.

Shortly afterwards Mrs. Trotter, who had not taken off her clothes, came from behind the screen. I perceived at once that the poor woman could hardly stand; she reeled to my chest, where she sat down and cried. I pulled on my clothes as fast as I could, and then went up to her to console her; but she could not speak intelligibly. After attempting in vain to console her, she made me no answer, but staggered to my hammock, and after several attempts, succeeded in getting into it. I cannot say that I much liked that, but what could I do? So I finished dressing myself, and went up on the quarter-deck.

The midshipman who had the watch was the one who had cautioned me against the Trotters; he was very friendly to me. "Well, Simple," said he, "what brings you on deck?" I told him how ill Mr. Trotter had behaved to his wife, and how she had turned into my hammock.

"The cursed drunken old catamaran," cried he; "I'll go and cut her down by the head;" but I requested he would not, as she was a lady.

"A lady," replied he; "yes, there's plenty of ladies of her description;" and then he informed me that she had many years ago been the mistress of a man of fortune who kept a carriage for her; but that he grew tired of her, and had given Trotter £200 to marry her, and that now they did nothing but get drunk together and fight with each other.

I was very much annoyed to hear all this; but as I perceived that Mrs. Trotter was not sober, I began to think that what the midshipman said was true. "I hope," added he, "that she has not had time to wheedle you out of any of your clothes."

I told him that I had given her a dozen pair of stockings, and had paid Mr. Trotter three guineas for my mess. "This must be looked to," replied he; "I shall speak to the first lieutenant."

ant to-morrow. In the mean time, I shall get your hammock for you. Quarter Master, keep a good look out." He then went below, and I followed him, to see what he would do. He went to my hammock and lowered it down at one end, so that Mrs. Trotter lay with her head on the deck in a very uncomfortable position. To my astonishment, she swore at him in a dreadful manner, but refused to turn out. He was abusing her and shaking her in the hammock, when Mr. Trotter, who had been roused at the noise, rushed from behind the screen. "You villain! what are you doing with my wife?" cried he, pummeling at him as well as he could, for he was so tipsy that he could hardly stand.

I thought the midshipman able to take care of himself, and did not wish to interfere; so I remained above, looking on—the sentry standing by me with his lanthorn over the combings of the hatchway, to give light to the midshipman, and to witness the fray. Mr. Trotter was soon knocked down, when all of a sudden Mrs. Trotter jumped up from the hammock, and caught the midshipman by the hair and pulled at him. Then the sentry thought right to interfere; he called out for the master-at-arms, and went down himself to help the midshipman, who was faring badly between the two. But Mrs. Trotter snatched the lanthorn out of his hand, and smashed it all to pieces, and then we were all left in darkness, and I could not see what took place, although the scuffling continued. Such was the posture of affairs, when the master-at-arms came up with his light. The midshipman and sentry came up the ladder, and Mr. and Mrs. Trotter were beating each other. To this none of them paid any attention, saying, as the sentry had said before, "Let them fight it out."

After they had fought some time, they retired behind the screen, and I followed the advice of the midshipman and got into my hammock, which the master-at-arms hung up again for me. I heard Mr. and Mrs. Trotter both crying and kissing each other. "Cruel, cruel, Mr. Trotter," said she biabbering.

"My life, my love, I was so jealous," replied he.

"D——n and blast your jealousy," replied the lady; "I've two nice black eyes for the galley to-morrow." In about an hour of kissing and scolding, they both fell asleep again.

(To be continued.)

TRANSLATED FROM A FRENCH PAPER.

PERCUSSION GUNS FOR THE ARMY.

The question as to using the percussion locks in the French army is on the point of being decided. Amongst the various trials which have been made, we must refer to those reported in the *Spectateur Militaire* from a statement of Captain Hauburg, of the Hanoverian army, where every thing tending to the improvement of the art of war always met with great consideration. At first, each infantry regiment received 40 percussion muskets, with instructions to ascertain by experiment whether such guns charged with the ordinary ball-cartridges used in actual service would answer in a campaign, by comparing them with the action of the same number of muskets with flint locks used under the same circumstances. The experiments were tried before 12 Committees appointed for the purpose at the same time, that is in the month of April, when the weather was very rainy, in order that the effect might be ascertained under circumstances the most unfavorable that can arise in the course of a campaign. Out of 340 muskets with percussion locks, consuming together 27,000 cartridges, there were only 21 that missed fire from the failure of the priming, and 72 from defect in the charge, making in all 93; while out of the same number of muskets with flint locks, burning the same quantity of cartridges, 1,448 missed fire from the priming, and 378 from the charge—making together 1,826. The experiments did not stop here. It was desired to ascertain the effect of firing each species of musket reiteratedly for a long time without their being cleaned. Eleven Committees returned that out of 22 percussion muskets, firing 11,000 shots, 8 failed in the priming and 6 in the charge, and out of the same number of muskets with flint locks, 207 shots failed from the priming, and 599 from the charge—in all 806. Still further experiments were made, both in exposing the muskets to a constant rain, by wetting the inside of the cap, and by putting a drop of water into the touch-hole. The result was, that the percussion guns, after being exposed to the injuries of the weather, or even a constant rain, were greatly more to be relied upon than those with flint locks. Marshal Soult, who had been for a long time impressed with the advantages to be derived from the use of percussion guns, resolved to renew the above experiments in France, and last year while residing at St. Ouen, a Committee of Officers, under the Presidency of the Colonel of the 12th Regiment of Light Infantry, repeated all the experiments above related, and the report thereupon, made by Capt. Vivier, of the Artillery, completely established the supremacy

of the new system. Inquiries have since been made so as to decide upon certain details in the construction of the locks, whether they can be applied to the muskets now in use, and to make them appropriate to every circumstance which may arise in the course of service. At the present time, nearly 2,000 muskets of all the different kinds have been fitted with percussion locks, in order to make a last and grand trial. Lieutenant Colonel Poncharra, Inspector of the Armory, has presented to the Minister of War a pair of officer's pistols, with percussion locks, and rifle barrels loading at the mouth, which, on proof, are ascertained to be far preferable to those now in use, as carrying a ball with great precision, requiring a less charge of powder, and being less severe in the recoil. The Minister of War has consequently decided, that all officers may, at their option, and at their own expense, furnish themselves with these new pistols at the manufactory of Maubauge, where they are made.

FROM THE UNITED SERVICE JOURNAL, FOR JULY, 1833.

UPON THE POINT BLANK RANGE OF ORDNANCE.

The term point-blank conveys generally a notion of a right line projection; and most practical gunners understand it to be so much of the first portion of a shot's trajectory as coincides, or nearly coincides, with a right line when the piece is directed horizontally. Such range must of necessity be very limited, since a shot drops, by action of gravity, at the instant it leaves the piece, below the line in which it was projected: in the first quarter of a second it will have dropped one foot; at the end of half a second, four feet; at the end of three quarters of a second, nine feet; and at the end of one second, it will have dropped sixteen feet: the descents respectively, being as the squares of the times.

If the point-blank range of any piece is determined, as it usually is, by firing the piece mounted in its carriage upon an horizontal plane (the axis of its bore being directed horizontally by a spirit level,) it is clear in such a case, that the axis of the piece is some height above the plane upon which the range is measured.

Allowing the height of the piece to be four feet, the flight of the shot should be exactly half a second when it first impinges or grazes upon the plane; admitting that it is affected only by the known laws of gravity and the air's resistance.

But the point-blank ranges, and those at small angles of elevation, are generally, as stated in the tables of practice, much greater than those deduced by the theorems of Mr. Robins and Dr. Hutton. It does not appear, from the tracts which those eminent men have put in our possession upon the subject of gunnery, that they were aware of a projectile's flight being disturbed by any other forces than those of gravity and the air's resistance; the first inducing a descent of the projectile, the other impeding its flight.

If in practice it is found that the first flight of a shot (projected from a piece four feet above an horizontal plane, the direction of the piece being strictly parallel to the plane) exceeds half a second, the air must not only impede its flight, but must also retard its descent in a much greater degree than would obtain from the resistance produced by the velocity of the shot's descent: the mean velocity of the shot's descent being, to the end of the half second, only eight feet per second, the resistance due to such velocity may be wholly disregarded. That the shot is, however, prevented by some means from dropping freely, experiments have, it is believed, established beyond a doubt.

In the absence of any thing that may be elicited upon the subject of a shot's suspension, it is suggested, that when a shot is projected with great velocity, the air must necessarily be very much compressed before its foremost hemisphere; and if the projection be near the earth's surface, the shot, encompassed by air in an exceedingly dense state, is opposed to an unyielding material below, the resistance of which may tend to support the shot in its trajectory.

For the guidance of naval gunners, the following table of ranges is compiled: the ranges are adapted to the use of sights which are now generally supplied to His Majesty's ships:—

Ranges of a 32 pounder long gun, 9 1-2 feet; charge 10 lbs. 11 oz. powder, single shot; initial velocity, 1600 feet.

Elevation in Degrees	R L	1-2	1	11-2	2	21-2	3	31-2	4	41-2	5	51-2	6
Range in Yards.	100	390	670	900	1090	1250	1390	1515	1630	1740	1850	1955	2055
First differences		280	230	190	160	140	125	115	110	110	105	100	
Second differences			50	40	30	20	15	10	5	0	5	5	

The above ranges are measured by a line supposed to be extended horizontally from the mouth of the piece. As the first 100 yards of the shot's trajectory nearly coincides with the hori-

zontal line, it is denominated right-line range. The ranges corresponding to the different angles of elevation are determined by the intersection of the horizontal line by the shot's trajectory.

The first and second differences are added merely to show the law of increase of range.

J. H.

FOR THE MILITARY AND NAVAL MAGAZINE.

PETTY OFFICERS OF THE NAVY.

I have read with great pleasure in your July number, the article under the head of "Petty Officers of the Navy," by "A Landsman." I congratulate the country and the navy, that even a *Landsman* has directed his thoughts to this subject.—For it does not require deep research to prove, that without attention bestowed to boys, in training them up for the navy, and in it, we can never have efficient warrant, petty officers and seamen, devoted to the navy. We may have the best officers and ships, but to make our naval armament complete, attention must be paid to the inferior classes.

Having devoted myself from early youth to the naval service of our country, every thing connected with its improvement is read with pleasure; and this subject has been frequently brought to my mind, as one of importance to our navy; and, as I have not seen any thing proposed by those at the head of the navy, I will proceed to detail a plan, that appears to me, calculated to accomplish the wishes of "a Landsman," and which has *this* to recommend it to the favorable notice of the Navy Department, *it will be attended with little or no expense.*

OUTLINE OF A PLAN FOR TRAINING UP BOYS IN THE NAVY.

1. Boys from 13 to 15 years old, to be bound as apprentices to the navy, to serve until of age: none with personal defects to be taken. The sons of seamen to be preferred.
2. The first three or four years to serve on board ships of the line and frigates; the remainder of their term of service, on board the smaller vessels.
3. On board of every vessel to be under the particular charge of an officer appointed for that purpose, by the Navy Department or the Captain, to act as guardian of the boys; who will every six months, or oftener if required, make a particular report of the character and capacity of each boy.

4. The boys are not to be employed as servants or waiters ; but are to be stationed in the different parts of the ship, and some with the boatswain, gunner, carpenter, sail maker, cooper, and armorer, to be brought up to fill these stations when vacancies occur, if found qualified to perform the duties.

5. A school to be kept for the boys, that they may all receive a good English education, in addition to the instruction they receive to fit them for the particular station they are intended for.

6. They are *all* to be instructed fully in the use of great guns, as a matter of the first importance ; and also to be taught the use of the pike, musket, and cutlass.

7. In port, they are frequently to be sent in boats, that they may become expert in their management, either with oars or sails.

8. The first three years, to be rated boys of the second class : the remainder of their time, to be rated boys of the first class ; but if before their time expires, they can perform ordinary seaman's duty, to be rated O. S. The pay of the boys to be under the particular direction of the guardian, who is to obtain the captain's approval to all expenditures on their account. And all their pay, beyond their necessary expenses for clothing, &c. to be retained until their discharge, or subject to such regulation as may be made by the Secretary of the Navy.

9. The pure morality of the bible should be early impressed upon their minds, and they should be taught, that their success in life will, in a great degree, depend upon their correct conduct in whatever situation they may be placed.

By adopting a plan something like the above, the navy will soon become popular with that class of the community we must always depend upon for seamen ; and we shall raise up a class of men, who will be identified with the navy, fit for all the inferior stations, and whose fidelity may be at all times depended on. The number of boys on board of each vessel might be, it is thought, increased from a fourth to a third more than the number at present allowed, without lessening their efficiency.

This plan will be attended with very little expense, as these boys are intended to take the place of those now employed, and at the same pay. Their school master may be the same that is now employed, on board all our vessels larger than a schooner, for the midshipmen ; or if it is thought best to have one expressly for the boys, this will be the only additional expense.

To ensure the proposed benefit to the navy, from training up boys in this way, inducements should be held out to them to remain in the service after they have served their apprenticeship : By not discharging them, if they wish to remain in the service : By giving them a short leave of absence, after re-

turning from a cruise: and by appointing them to fill all the important stations on board ship, when found fully qualified. And finally, by rendering them morally certain of a comfortable birth in the Asylum, or at some of our naval stations, when old and unfit for active service at sea.

Other benefits would, in the opinion of the writer, follow, besides those above mentioned; but it is hoped that enough has been said to draw attention to this subject, with the hope and belief that, the more it is examined, the more important it will appear; and the perfect ease with which the plan suggested can be carried into operation, is not the least of its recommendations. The above is submitted with great diffidence, to "A Landsman" and the Navy, by

A JUNIOR OFFICER.

FOR THE MILITARY AND NAVAL MAGAZINE.

PROVIDENT SOCIETY.

It was with much pleasure that I perused an article in your last number, headed "Hints for a Military and Naval Provident Society." An institution of this character has been loudly called for, by the sufferings of the families of deceased officers, who, in many cases have fallen from a state of ease and plenty, to that of absolute want and destitution. That such will be the case again and again, needs but little sagacity to foresee, unless the officers themselves, by their united exertions, through a Provident Society, or some similar institution, succeed in averting it.

The design met with the unqualified approbation of all of the officers of this post, who are ready and willing (I doubt not without a single exception) to bind themselves to contribute the amount proposed in the above mentioned article, and will forward the subscription paper as soon as any one is designated to receive the same.

Although the general plan proposed was approved of by the officers of this post, still there was one principal feature which they considered very objectionable, as being unjust in itself, and calculated to prejudice the best interests of the society. I allude to that which would exclude from the benefits of the society, the families of deceased officers who leave an unincumbered estate, or a stated income. Such officers would consider their contributions to the society as charitable donations, or as a grievous tax, which yielded no corresponding benefit. And in truth they would be nothing less than a tax, and one to which

few would be found so charitable as to voluntarily submit. Thus would the society be deprived of the aid of that portion of the officers most competent to yield it. To say nothing of the evil tendency it would have, in removing all stimulus to a prudent and decent economy, so praiseworthy in all of limited means. But in objecting to this one *item*, let it be distinctly understood, that the general plan meets with their approbation, and the friends to the institution may rely upon their most zealous co-operation for its organization and support.

Should there be no one designated, before the receipt of this, I would suggest that some persons, (perhaps some public spirited individuals residing in Washington, or other central position, may volunteer,) be appointed to receive the names of subscribers, and take such other measures as they may deem necessary, to the selection of a committee, to draw up articles of association, &c. These appointments might be made by nominating an adequate number in the Military and Naval Magazine, and should there be no objection made within a reasonable time, to any of the nominees, let them be considered as duly elected.

The above suggestions are humbly made, to be adopted *only* in the absence of more judicious ones, and proceeds solely from a zealous desire to promote an object of the last importance to all concerned.

R. E.

Fort Brady, August 9, 1833.

FOR THE MILITARY AND NAVAL MAGAZINE.

EXAMINATION OF MIDSHIPMEN.

Why is it that a Board of Visitors are invited to attend the examination of the cadets at West Point, and not that of the midshipmen of our navy?

Separated as we are by the ocean from those countries, to which we are most liable to be opposed, the navy, it is to be presumed, would at all events bear an *equal* burden of a war. Acting, too, as the navy officer often does, as the representative of his country, should he be of less interest to that country than the officer of the army?

In the examination of midshipmen, the Board is composed of three or five Post Captains, who are to decide upon the qualifications of each candidate, in seamanship, gunnery, &c.

Now it is well known, that in seamanship the most experienced seamen differ in opinion. Then the rank of those offi-

cers, and their standing in the service where they are not known, is to be decided by the casting vote of the Board, who, perhaps, either from personal acquaintance with the young officer, or with his family, *may, without being aware of the fact,* thus have their opinions biased. Far be it from me to suppose they *could* intentionally decide contrary to their judgment, "for they are all, all honorable men."

But when we consider the mathematical examination, we see still greater cause for complaint. This is conducted *solely* by one person, who may be influenced by other feelings than those by which he should be governed upon such an occasion.

The great dissatisfaction that prevailed amongst the midshipmen last examined, (who, it is to be supposed, should have at least *some* knowledge of the acquirements of each other,) shows "something is rotten in the state of Denmark."

LOGAN.

ANECDOTES OF SAILORS.

During the prevalence of the cholera last year in this Borough, a sailor of decent appearance called at Mr. W. S. Lacoste's boarding house, and frankly told him that he was adrift at the mercy of the elements, without a harbor a-head, or a shot in the locker, and if perchance he should be boarded by the cholera, why, he must founder in the street, he supposed. Lacoste, who was never known to be backward in extending relief to a fellow creature in distress, and who perceived a warrant for the poor fellow's honesty in his countenance, readily tendered him a bed and a seat at his table, until it should be better times with him, which friendly offer Jack accepted with much joy. Not readily meeting with a vessel to ship on board of, however, our hero became impatient, and after making a suitable acknowledgment of his gratitude to his kind and generous host, and promising to quit the score as soon as it was in his power, he left his house and embarked for New York. Twelve months had rolled on, and the sailor had entirely escaped from Mr. L's memory, when one day last week, a seaman, very neatly clad, and of a prepossessing countenance, called at his house, and without any preface, thus accosted him:—

"Here are \$200; I wish you to take as much of it as you want to pay yourself for your generosity to me, and keep the balance till I call for it. I am just off to sea, and if I should go to Old Davy, why, you see, I had rather you should have it than any body I know."

"Why, who are you, and what claim have I to your money?"

"Oh, then you have forgot the poor sailor you took out of the street last year, and treated so kindly—but he has not forgot you." So saying, he forced the money upon his benefactor, adding—"I know that if I get back safe, I shall find the money safe, and if I don't, why keep it and welcome. And here (pulling a lottery ticket from his pocket) here, take this, and if it draws a prize, keep that too." Then giving Mr. L. a cordial shake of the hand, he left him and went on board his vessel, which in an hour after was under way for a foreign port.

In less than 24 hours after his departure, Mr. L. called at the lottery office to enquire the fate of Jack's ticket, when he had the satisfaction to learn that its numbers had drawn the handsome sum of \$1,000—Jack's share of the prize money being \$250.—*Norfolk Herald, July 24.*

The freaks of a sailor on shore with his pockets full of Uncle Sam's bank bills, are often vastly diverting, but the following incident, which has been communicated to us, is more so than any we have ever heard of. Last Saturday, a son of Neptune landed from one of the steam boats in Providence, probably just discharged from the frigate Brandywine, and made sail immediately for one of the stage offices. "Haul in your bob-stays, and avast a bit," said he to the driver, "I want to charter your craft for a passage for myself and baggage to Boston—what d'ye ask?" "Two dollars," answered the driver, "for yourself, and a dollar and a half for your luggage. "None of your tricks, you landlubber," responded Jack, "blast my eyes, if I don't start an opposition if you charge at that rate."

The driver persisting, Jack waddled down to a truck-stand—"I say, shipmate, what will you take for your horse and truck, as you call 'em." The truckman thinking it all a joke, said he would take a hundred and fifty dollars. "I'll give a cool hundred," said Jack. "Done," said Trucky, and at Jack's request, he made out a bill of sale, when much to his surprise, Jack pulled out of his pocket a \$100 bill and handed it over. Trucky, therefore, offered him \$25 to relinquish his bargain, but Jack was determined to start an opposition to that "landlubber up stream," and so mounted his truck with his baggage and drove through the streets, offering passage to Boston at half price—sailors free. Not being successful in obtaining passengers, he started off alone, and was passed by the stage coach a few miles from Providence, endeavoring to get through a toll gate, at a less price than the law authorized. We have not yet heard of his arrival, though he will no doubt be here. The horse and truck are said to be worth full \$160.—*Boston Atlas, July 22.*

ENGINEER OFFICERS.

OFFICERS OF THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS, THEIR STATIONS AND DUTIES.

NAMES.	STATIONS.	DUTIES.
Brigadier Gen. C. Gratiot	Washington,	Chief Engineer.
Colonel J. G. Totten	Newport, R. I.	Superintending Fortifications.
Lieutenant Colonel S. Thayer	Boston, Mass.	Ditto.
Major R. E. De Russey	W. Point, N. Y.	Superintendent of the Military Academy.
Captain J. L. Smith	New York, N. Y.	Superintending Fortifications.
George Blaney	Smithville, N. C.	Ditto.
W. H. Chase	Pensacola, Flor.	Ditto.
R. Delafeld	Uniontown, Penn.	Ditto.
A. Talcott	Old Point, Va.	Superintending Repairs of the Cumberland Road, E. of the Ohio.
W. A. Eliason	Charleston, S. C.	Superintending Fortifications.
First Lieutenant Thomas J. Leslie	W. Point, N. Y.	Ditto.
C. A. Ogden	Mobile, Ala.	Pay Master and Treasurer.
H. Brewerton	Columbus, Ohio.	Superintending Fortifications.
S. Tuttle	St. Augustine, Flo.	Superintending Cumberland Road in Ohio.
Geo. Dutton	Beaufort, N. C.	Superintending Fortifications.
J. K. F. Mansfield	Savannah, Geo.	Superintending Improvements at Ocracoke Inlet.
Second Lieutenant A. H. Bowman	Pensacola, Flor.	Superintending Fortifications.
T. S. Brown,	Vandalia, Ill.	Assistant to the Superintendent Engineer of Fortifications.
W. H. C. Bartlett	Washington, D. C.	Assistant to the Chief Engineer.
R. E. Lee	Old Point, Va.	Assistant to the Superintendent Engineer of Fortifications.
A. J. Swift	Newport, R. I.	Ditto.
R. Parke	Boston, Mass.	Ditto.
Bvt. Second Lieut. F. A. Smith	W. Point, N. Y.	Assistant Professor of Engineering at the Military Academy.
J. G. Barnard	Newport, R. I.	On duty with Board of Engineers.
Geo. W. Cullum	Ditto, do.	Assistant to the Superintendent Engineer of Fortifications.
Rufus King	Old Point, Va.	Ditto.

ALLEN'S MONUMENT.

MONUMENT TO LIEUTENANT ALLEN.

The citizens of Hudson, N. Y. have erected a monument to the memory of Lieut. W. H. Allen, late of that City, who was killed by pirates in 1822. The following description of the structure is from the Columbia Republican.

LIEUT. ALLEN'S MONUMENT.—This monument, which is now completed, was erected by the citizens of Hudson to the memory of their late fellow-citizen, Lieut. William H. Allen. It stands upon a commanding scite at the northern extremity of the city cemetery. It is composed of a column of the Grecian Doric order, elevated upon a pedestal and surmounted by a sepulchral urn. The pedestal is a square in its plan, placed upon an elevation of three steps, and slightly tapering in a pyramidal form as it rises, and terminates with a beautiful and bold capital—supporting a plinth, from which rises the fluted column in all the beauty and grace of the classic architecture of ancient Greece. The whole is surmounted with a chaste and beautiful urn, and presents at once an object of simplicity and chastened elegance, alike honorable to the city and those engaged in its execution. It is built of the purest white marble, in a masterly style, by Mr. Cyrus Darling, of this city, after a design by Mr. J. H. Dakin, of New York. Its whole height is 20 feet. Upon the pannels of the pedestal the following words are inscribed :

To the memory of
WILLIAM HOWARD ALLEN,

Lieutenant in the United States Navy,
who was killed in the act of boarding
a piratical vessel on the coast of
Cuba near Matanzas, on the
9th of November, 1822,
ÆT. 32.

WILLIAM HOWARD ALLEN,

His remains, first buried at Matanzas,
were removed to this city by the United States
Government, and interred under the direction
of the Common Council of this city, beneath
this marble, erected to his honor by the
citizens of his native place,
1833.

WILLIAM HOWARD ALLEN,

was born in the city of Hudson, July 8th, 1790,
appointed Midshipman in 1804,
and Lieutenant in 1811;

Took a conspicuous part in the engagement
between the Argus and Pelican in 1813,
and was killed while in command of the
United States Schooner Alligator.

Pride of his country's banded chivalry,
His fame their hope, his name their battle cry;
He lived as Mothers wish their sons to live,
He died as Fathers wish their sons to die.

NAVY OF HOLLAND.—On the 1st of January last, the list of naval officers comprised 4 Vice-Admirals, 6 Rear-Admirals, 23 Captains, 32 Captain-Lieutenants, 243 Lieutenants (of whom 73 of the first class), 108 Ensigns of the first class, 4 Surgeons-general, 60 Surgeons, and 42 Quarter-Masters. The officers of *Marines*, exclusive of the Rear-Admiral in command, were composed of 9 Majors, 9 Captains, 21 Lieutenants, and 1 Captain Quarter-Master. The number of cadets in the academy at Medemblik amounts to 85.

MILITARY ORDER—PROMOTIONS, ETC.

.DER. } HEAD QUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
No. 79. } ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
 Washington, 20th September, 1833.

THE REGULATION of the War Department, promulgated to the Army in "ORDER" No. 48, has been modified according to the following direction of the Secretary of War:—

DEPARTMENT OF WAR,

SEPTEMBER 20TH, 1833.

That part of the Regulation quoted in Order No. 48, which prohibited the officers of the Army from visiting the Seat of Government without express permission, was adopted with a view to prevent the recurrence of difficulties, which had frequently been experienced in the administration of the concerns of the Army. It was not intended to impair the just rights or reasonable expectations of the officers, still less to affect that pride of character, personal and professional, which has always been cherished in the American Army, and without which their country would have little to expect from their services.

The limitation imposed by the same Regulation, upon the practice of granting leave of absence, will have a tendency to diminish much of the evil which the above prohibition was intended to obviate. And should experience hereafter show, that its operation is still so injurious as to require further remedy, while such remedy will be applied so as best to attain the object, it will be applied with every just regard to the honor and feelings of the officer.

Under these circumstances, therefore, paragraph No. 7, under the head of "*Leaves of Absence*," of the Regulation above referred to, is hereby rescinded.

LEW: CASS.

BY ORDER OF MAJOR GENERAL MACOMB:

R. JONES,
Adjutant General.

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

In the Army of the United States since the publication of "Order" No. 60.

PROMOTIONS.

FIRST REGIMENT OF INFANTRY.

- 1st Lieut. Jefferson Vail, to be Captain, 11th July, 1833, vice Harney resigned.
 2d Lieut. J. H. Lamotte, to be 1st Lieutenant, 11th July, 1833, vice Vail promoted.
 Bvt. 2d Lieut. E. F. Covington, to be 2d Lieutenant, 11th July, 1833, vice Lamotte promoted.

THIRD REGIMENT OF INFANTRY.

- 1st Lieut. Benj. Walker, to be Captain, 31st August 1833, vice Webb resigned.
 2nd Lieut. W. R. Montgomery, to be 1st Lieutenant, 31st August, 1833, vice Walker promoted.
 Bvt. 2d Lieut. Albert G. Blanchard, to be 2d Lieutenant, 31st August, 1833, vice Montgomery promoted.

APPOINTMENTS.

- Samuel W. Hales, to be Assistant Surgeon, 23d July, 1833.
 George F. Turner, to be Assistant Surgeon, 23d July, 1833.
 John M. Gardner, to be Assistant Surgeon, 9th August, 1833.
 Miles C. Leavenworth, to be Assistant Surgeon, 1st September, 1833.
 Edwards S. Fayssoux, to be Military Storekeeper, 24th August, 1833.

UNITED STATES' REGIMENT OF DRAGOONS.

Capt. Lemuel Ford of Mounted Rangers, to be Captain, 15th Aug. 1833.
 Capt. Jesse B. Browne of Mounted Rangers, to be Captain, 15th Aug. 1833.
 Capt. Jesse Bean of Mounted Rangers, to be Captain, 15th Aug. 1833.
 Capt. Nathan Boone of Mounted Rangers, to be Captain, 15th Aug. 1833.
 1st Lieut. Charles F. M. Noland of Mounted Rangers, to be 1st Lieut.
 1st Lieut. T. B. Wheelock of Mounted Rangers, to be 1st Lieut.
 2d Lieut. John L. Watson of Mounted Rangers, to be 2d Lieut.
 2d Lieut. James W. Shaumburg of Mounted Rangers, to be 2d Lieut.

RESIGNATIONS

In the Army of the United States since the publication of "Order" No. 60.

Walter Smith, Captain 1st Artillery, 30th September, 1833.
 William S. Harney, Captain 1st Infantry, 11th July, 1833.
 Stephen H. Webb, Captain 3d Infantry, 31st August, 1833.
 Alexander H. Morton, 1st Lieutenant 7th Infantry, 12th July, 1833.
 George E. Chase, 2d Lieutenant 3d Artillery, 31st August, 1833.
 Erasmus F. Covington, 2d Lieutenant 1st Infantry, 30th September, 1833.
 William H. Harford, 2d Lieutenant 4th Infantry, 15th September, 1833.
 Charles W. Hackley, 2d Lieutenant 2d Artillery, 30th September, 1833.
 William A. Norton, 2d Lieutenant 4th Artillery, 30th September, 1833.
 John E. Brackett, Bvt. 2d Lieutenant 2d Artillery, 31st August, 1833.
 Henry Stevenson, Assistant Surgeon, 31st August, 1833.
 Robert E. Kerr, Assistant Surgeon, 31st August, 1833.

MILITARY INTELLIGENCE.

From the Mississippi Journal and Natchez Advocate.

Military Operations on the Frontiers.—We have taken some pains to make room for an interesting extract of a letter from an old acquaintance, (Maj. Young, well known in this community,) now on service in one of our frontier military posts; which serves at the same time to give us some idea of the great extent of an unknown and unexplored wilderness far to the west of us, and to show what are some of the labors and privations suffered by our interesting little army, in guarding our frontier settlements from the horrors of savage warfare. The expedition seems to have been conducted with commendable skill and perseverance; and though it failed of any immediate practical results, yet it may not have failed to add important information to the topography, natural advantages, and productions of the country: and the display of military force in a region where it was before unknown, may exert a salutary influence upon the future schemes of the hostile Indians.

Extract of a letter dated Fort Gibson, July 16.

"On the 6th of May last, we left this post with three companies of United States mounted Rangers, and two companies of Infantry, under the command of Lt. Col. Many, marching in a south westerly direction towards Red River, with a view to explore the country, and give protection to the Choctaws, located above Fort Towson, from the predatory incursions of the Pawnee tribe of Indians. We had proceeded on our course for upwards of twenty days, and were within forty miles of Red River, and between the Washita and Blue Rivers, (tributaries to the Red,) when one of our hunters, a ranger, was surprised by a band of Pawnee Indians, made prisoner, and carried off. On ascertaining this fact, we bore off to the right of our course, in pursuit of the enemy; and soon fell upon the trail (as we supposed) of

about two hundred Pawnees, mounted; which we followed up with all practical haste. But no doubt they had satisfied themselves of our force after taking the ranger; as their flight was made with great precipitancy and apparent terror, leaving on their trail some of their horses, buffalo-ropes, saddles, bows and arrows, and all the *et ceteras* of savage baggage and equipment. We found their trail, towards the close of the pursuit, as large as our own, and marked by the abandoned baggage to the point of crossing the Washita, into which they appeared to have plunged with little ceremony, taking refuge in the hilly and rocky country on the opposite bank of the river; which effaced from us their trail, and left us at fault as to the course they had taken.

After crossing the Washita, we bore down for Red River, with a view of crossing it also, and attacking the Pawnee towns, which are supposed to lay within the province of Texas. Having no guides, however, or satisfactory information as to their location, we were compelled to return to the range of the buffalo, after a fruitless and fatiguing march. The enlistments of the rangers being about expiring, it became necessary that we should kill and dry a sufficient quantity of buffalo meat, for our return march to Fort Gibson, which place we reached after fifty-four days absence, and with the loss of only one man: having lived for thirty days on buffalo meat alone, without either bread or salt, and for the last eight days of our march on dried buffalo meat, boiled in water with tallow."

Company (E) of the 1st Regiment of Artillery, under the command of Captain H. Saunders, arrived at New York on Saturday, 14th September, in the packet ship Calhoun, from Charleston, S. C. This company are on their way to New London, Conn. accompanied by Lieuts. G. Turner and J. Ammen, and Asst. Surgeon Heiskell. Lieut. J. Farley, of Captain H. Whiting's Company (C) 1st Regiment of Artillery, relieved Captain Saunders in command of Castle Pinckney.

Company (A) 2d Artillery, under the command of Capt. Loud, left the Arsenal at Augusta, Geo. on the 20th September, for Fort Mitchell. The Arsenal is left in command of Lieut. Herring.

NAVAL INTELLIGENCE.

Extract of a letter from Commodore WARRINGTON to the Commissioners of the Navy,

GOSPORT, AUGUST 31, 1833.

"It gives me pleasure to report the return of the North Carolina to her moorings. She was undocked yesterday, after having the leak stopped, and the fore foot renewed, which last, being necessary to her repair, to save time and trouble, we finished thoroughly. Nothing but the dirt or sediment, which, mixed with a few chips, had been forced into the aperture, caused by the worms, [as fair a cavity as if dug out by chisels] prevented her from sinking. The cost of labor and materials, does not exceed \$384. The fore foot, being stripped of the lead in launching, was completely honey-combed. The piece taken out of the larboard bow was 6 1-2 feet long, and 16 1-2 inches wide. I have never in Pensacola, or the West Indies, seen larger worms, as they had been increasing in size for years."

If doubts exist as to the great national importance of Dry Docks, the facts disclosed in the above extract, will surely remove them. Without a Dry Dock, it would have been necessary to heave the ship down, to discover and stop the leak referred to; and to heave down such a ship as the North Carolina, is not only a very expensive, but a hazardous operation; and when hove down, it is not possible to repair as thoroughly and effectually,

as when in dock. We have understood that the operation of heaving down a ship of this magnitude, would require 100 men for 10 days, and that the cost would not be less than \$10,000—while the injury to the ship might equal another \$10,000—and then her repairs could never be made as complete as if in dock. But with a dock we find that a ship of any size may be placed in a situation, where her bottom may be thoroughly examined and repaired, at comparatively trifling expense, without incurring the smallest risk.

We should think that all our ships, particularly such as have returned from cruises of any length, or as have been lying any time in port, ought to be docked before again leaving port.

Extract of a letter to the Editor of the Military and Naval Magazine, from an officer on board the U. S. Ship *John Adams*, dated

IN THE ARCHIPELAGO, JULY 2, 1833.

"We sailed from Smyrna on the 28th ultimo, and from Vourla yesterday. H. B. M. Frigate *Madagascar* arrived at Smyrna on the 17th, last from Napoli di Romania, having on board the young King Otho and suite. A week after his arrival, he was joined by his brother Prince Maximilian, who came passenger in a Neopolitan steamboat from Constantinople. The *Madagascar* sailed on the 26th, to touch at Scio and the other principal islands in the Archipelago.

"A French fleet, consisting of four line-of-battle ships, three frigates, a brig and schooner, which had been lying at Vourla more than two months, sailed on the 26th for the Dardanelles, where they are to join an English squadron of superior force already there. Their object, it is well known, is to watch the movements of the Russians now at Constantinople. This sea at present is swarming with men of war; there were flying at Smyrna a few days since, the flags of five different nations, viz: the English, French, Austrian, Russian, and American.

"We are daily expecting the arrival of the *United States*, Commodore PATTERSON, and flatter ourselves that it will not be long ere this ship's head will be turned homeward. I am happy to inform you that the officers and crew are in excellent health."

The Frigate *United States*, Captain J. B. NICOLSON, bearing the broad pendant of Commodore PATTERSON, arrived at Trieste, on the 10th July; and the Frigate *Constellation*, Capt. G. C. READ, arrived at the same place on the 12th, both vessels having visited Naples and Palermo.

The U. S. Ship *Falmouth* was at Callao, last accounts, and would go up to Valparaiso in July.

The U. S. Ship *Natchez*, Capt. ZANTZINGER, and *Lerington*, Capt. McKEEVER, were at Rio la Plata, July 28, all well—the former would sail in two or three days, the latter would remain.

Naval Court Martial.—A Naval Court Martial is now sitting on board the U. S. Ship *Columbus*, at the Navy Yard, Charlestown, for the trial of all such persons as may be brought before it. The Court consists of Capt. Thomas H. Stevens, President, and Cpts. Joseph Smith and Wm. V. Taylor, Lieuts. Babbitt, Varnum, Pearson and Van Brunt, members. Andrew Dunlap, Esq. is the Judge Advocate.

RESIGNATIONS IN THE NAVY.

Thomas R. Gerry, Lieut:	27 Aug. 1833.
Francis B. Wright, Mid.	24 " "
Hugh H. Stockton, do	2 Sept. "
Charles G. Bush, do	23 " "
John P. Fenner, Chaplain,	23 Sept. 1833.
Elliott Green, Carpenter,	28 Aug. "
Calvin Oaks do	20 " "

Several of our public vessels are now preparing for sea, or have recently sailed. We have obtained lists of their officers, which are as correct as they can be made at present; some few changes may take place before sailing.

List of Officers attached to the U. S. Ship *St. Louis*, which sailed on Sunday, 22d September from New York, for the West India station:

THOMAS M. NEWELL, *Commander*.

Lieutenants.—Wm. S. Harris—W. C. Wetmore—Samuel Mercer—Oscar Bullus—Richard H. Morris.

Surgeon, J. S. Willy. *Ass't Sur.* Euclid Borland.

Purser, F. G. McCauley. *Acting Master*, John W. Cox.

Midshipmen.—Thomas M. Mix—Samuel Garrison—John N. Moffit—M. Hunt—Frederick Oaks—John G. Tod—Wm. E. Newton—Wm. W. Smith—James A. Doyle—C. W. Elliott—T. A. M. Craven—J. E. Duncan—N. E. Lane—T. M. Melville—J. W. Revere—E. C. Ward.

Boatswain, John Ferris. *Gunner*, Francis Gardner. *Carpenter*, Samuel Phillips. *Sailmaker*, Thomas J. Boyce.

The *Vandalia*, bearing the broad pendant of Commodore JOHN D. HENLEY, is now lying at Norfolk, ready for sea, and will sail in a few days for the West Indies.

GEORGE BUDD, *Commander*.

Lieutenants.—S. W. Lecompte, Z. F. Johnston, John Graham, A. B. Fairfax, Charles C. Turner.

Surgeon of the Fleet.—John A. Kearney.

Assistant Surgeon.—L. W. Minor. *Purser*.—D. Walker.

Acting Master.—J. K. Mitchell.

Passed Midshipmen.—T. M. Washington, S. C. Rowan.

Midshipmen.—H. Norvell, A. A. Holcomb, J. W. E. Read, C. C. Barton, L. Maynard, E. Lanier, J. McCormick, J. D. Johnston, H. P. Robertson, T. W. Gibson, G. J. W. Thayer.

Boatswain,—Geo. Wilmuth. *Gunner*,—John Hay. *Carpenter*,—Jas. Cox. *Sailmaker*.—Wm. Bennet.

Several changes have taken place in the officers of the *Vincennes*, since the list published in May.

ALEXANDER S. WADSWORTH, *Commander* of the U. S. Naval forces in the Pacific, destined to relieve Commodore Downes in the *Potomac*.

Lieutenants.—Charles H. Bell, John H. Smith, T. Bailey, E. M. Russell, John W. Turk.

Surgeon of the Fleet, Andrew B. Cooke. *Ass't. Surgeon*, J. F. Sickels.

Purser, E. N. Cox. *Acting Master*, E. W. Moore.

Passed Midshipmen, R. Handy, T. P. Green.

Midshipmen. J. J. Almy, J. G. Anthony, J. B. Dale, Geo. W. Harrison, S. Decatur, W. A. Jones, J. H. Sherburne, A. G. Clary, W. Bartlett, W. A. Parker, S. B. Thompson.

Boatswain, John Morris. *Sailmaker*, James Davis.

Ship *Ontario*, preparing for sea at Norfolk, for the coast of Brazil:

WILLIAM D. SALTER, *Commander*.

Lieutenants.—Charles Lowndes—John W. West—L. Pennington—Edward G. Tilton.

Surgeon, George W. Codwise. *Ass't. Sur.* Wm. J. Powell.

Purser, B. J. Cahoon. *Acting Master*, A. H. Marbury.

Passed Mid. John R. Goldsborough—Alexander Gibson.

Midshipmen.—Robert Patton—J. P. B. Adams—James P. Landford—Francis Hagerty—Nathaniel Reeder—Robert Burts—Wm. G. Benham—W. H. Wallace—O. H. Berryman.

Boatswain, John Freeman. *Gunner*,

Carpenter, John Williston. *Sailmaker*, John Hickie.

The *Schr. Boxer*, Lieut. Com'g. Shields, was at Anjier on the 19th May, waiting the arrival of the *Peacock*.

GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

MONSTER-GUNS.—The attempt to introduce one of this species of engines, at the late siege of the citadel of Antwerp, calls to mind the immense pieces formerly used under the name of *Karthauns*. They were of three sizes, halves, quarters, and wholes. The latter were three yards long, weighed between seventy and eighty hundred weight, were loaded with from twenty to thirty pounds of gunpowder, and projected a ball of eight-and-forty to sixty pounds in weight. One of these destructive machines, christened "The Foul Wench," was mounted on the rampart of the water gate at Dresden, when that city was besieged by Frederick of Prussia in the year 1760. It was the ruin of the houses in the rear, and an object of alarm and terror to all its neighbors; indeed, the commotion and roar which its discharge occasioned, were such, that the officer in command was generally compassionate enough to give previous notice of the exact time when it would begin to thunder. The non-militants might be seen and heard, running up and down the streets, and shouting, 'To-day the Foul Wench will be fired three times: at six, at noon, and at seven in the evening. At this signal, all the windows were thrown open, and every thing that was brittle was hurried away to some safe corner; men, women, and children fell on their knees in prayer, and not a lip would touch food until the "Wench" had done her bidding.—*U. Service Journal*.

AIDE-DU-CAMP.—This post would appear to be of as old a date as the first institution of regular troops; its duties were performed by young men of rank, who entered as volunteers into the army, but received neither fee nor reward for their services. In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries they were called "*Aides des Maréchaux-de-Camp des Armées du Roi*," because they were more particularly attached to the Maréchal-de-Camp for the purpose of assisting him in distributing the army into quarters. The Duke d'Enghien alone had two-and-twenty such aides, when he laid siege to Thionville in 1643; and, in the times of Louis XIV., their allowances were five-and-twenty pounds per month. This monarch assigned four of them to every Field-marshal or commander of an army, two to every lieutenant general, and one to every Maréchal-de-Camp, when engaged in active service. The aides-de-camp of a marshal of France hold superior rank to those of inferior generals; and such as are attached to the sovereign or royal princes, enjoy rather a nominal office than any active post.—*United Service Journal*.

NEW LANTERNS FOR SHIPS.—Captain de Conick, of the Danish navy, has invented a new kind of signal-lantern, found to be of great utility in the navy, the light of which is much more brilliant than that at present in use. It is obtained on the argand principle, without the use of glass, by conveying a current of air through the lantern. The lamp will contain sufficient oil to last several hours, and, by the construction of the lantern, not be liable to the effects of bad weather. It is said to have been tried with complete success in a gale of wind. The above officer has also applied the same principles to the construction of deck lanterns, eight or ten of which, when placed a-midships, are sufficient to give light to the guns on the deck of the largest man-of-war. The light is so well secured from external effects, that it withstands the concussion produced by the firing of guns, which so frequently extinguishes the light of the common lanterns. The efficacy of this invention has been put to a severe test on board two Danish frigates. For this purpose the lantern was suspended from the muzzle of the gun, which was fired with the lantern in that position. A common lantern placed by the gun was immediately extinguished by the concussion of the first discharge, while the new lantern remained steady during 14 successive discharges, when it was extinguished by the united effect of the concussion and the great vibratory motion it obtained.—*Repository of Patents*.

METEOROLOGICAL JOURNAL, FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST, 1833.

Kept at the Depot of Naval Instruments, Washington City.

METEOROLOGICAL TABLE.

Moon's Phases.	Day.	Barometer.	Temperature. Max. Min.	Dew Point	Weather.	Wind. Direction. Force.	Rain.	REMARKS.
Full M.	Thur. 1	30.130	76	69	68°	clear,		
	Fri. 2	30.120	78	69	67	clear,		
	Sat. 3	30.100	81	72	69	clear, cloudy, clear,		
	Sun. 4	30.078	80	73	71	clear, cloudy,		
	Mon. 5	30.085	79	75	76	rain, clear, cloudy,		
	Tues. 6	30.068	81	76	72	cloudy, clear, cloudy,		
	Wed. 7	30.063	84	79	72	cloudy, clear,		
	Thur. 8	30.134	80	74	67	clear, cloudy, clear,		
	Fri. 9	30.041	78	75	59	clear,		
	Sat. 10	30.178	74	68	55	clear,		
3rd Qr.	Sun. 11	30.145	75	63	66	cloudy, clear, cloudy,		
	Mon. 12	29.945	80	71	69	cloudy, rain, cloudy,		
	Tues. 13	29.869	84	76	65	clear, cloudy, clear,		
	Wed. 14	30.013	82	71	64	clear,		
	Thur. 15	29.958	82	74	67	light rain, clear,		
	Fri. 16	29.995	80	71	74	cloudy, clear, cloudy,		
	Sat. 17	30.138	80	72	56	clear,		
	Sun. 18	30.197	78	69	56	clear,		
	Mon. 19	30.236	75	71	49	clear,		
	Tues. 20	30.257	80	68	51	clear,		
New M.	Wed. 21	30.208	77	67	69	cloudy,		
	Thur. 22	30.089	80	70	69	cloudy,		
	Fri. 23	30.042	77	72	69	cloudy,		
	Sat. 24	30.225	78	71	55	cloudy, clear,		
	Sun. 25	30.205	77	62	57	clear,		
	Mon. 26	30.124	80	65	62	clear,		
	Tues. 27	29.925	83	70	64	clear,		
	Wed. 28	29.960	76	70	57	cloudy, clear, cloudy,		
	Thur. 29	30.112	74	58	52	clear,		
	Fri. 30	30.251	78	54	46	clear,		
1st Qr.	Sat. 31	30.181	77	68	60	clear,		
Full M.								

Observations with Daniell's Hygrometer have been made at the same time with the Barometric and Thermometric observations, and the column marked *Dew Point* indicates its standing.

On the 27th, at 6' 30" A. M. a smart shock of an earthquake was felt in and about the city.

Mean height of Barometer, during the month, In. 30.100
Mean maximum Thermom. ° 78.65
Mean minimum " ° 70.1
Quantity of Rain fallen, In. 1.08